VIZ action

Battle Angel ALITA™ Last Order™ ANGEL ETERNAL

Story and Art by Yukito Kishiro

Vol. 3

action

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA LAST ORDER 3

Story and Art by Yukito Kishiro

VIZ

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VIZ

VIZ Graphic Novel

$9.95 USA/$13.95 CAN

A sophisticated science fiction tale chock-full of action, black humor, and philosophical, historical, and cultural references!

Alita arrives on space station Ketheres to rescue her friend Lou's brain, which has been stolen and plugged into a vast array powering an A.I. known as "Melchizedek"! Before Alita can get over her culture shock, she gets embroiled in the vicious squabbles of a league of planets who have harnessed the secret of immortality itself!

VIZ

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This book reads from right to left.

RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEENS

ISBN 1-59116-135-5

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7 82009 15503 4

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA, VOLS. 1~9

In the near future…the world is divided into the dominated and the dominators. Tiphares, a floating artificial utopia, rules the Scrapyard, the surface, absolutely. But no one knows when or why this floating city was made—or by whom.

Ido, a Tipharean cyber-doctor and denizen of the Scrapyard, finds the head of a cyborg in a pile of rubble, and miraculously rebuilds her. She awakens with no memories, and Ido names her "Alita." Slowly, the harsh life of the Scrapyard stirs the fighting spirit within her, and she begins her path to self-discovery, living as a Hunter-Warrior, or bounty-hunter.

Alita meets and falls in love with Hugo, a boy who idolizes Tiphares. When she loses Hugo, she is heartbroken. Out of desperation, she turns to the pro sport world of Motorball, where she competes against the mighty Jashugan.

In a battle with a vicious cyborg named Zapan, whose body was revamped by evil genius Desty Nova, Alita loses Ido—her only family. Even her own life hangs by a thread.

The Tipharean organization G.I.B. presents Alita with a new path, and she chooses to live the life of a TUNED, a Tipharean agent, so that she can search for Nova, who holds the key to Ido's regeneration.

In the process, Alita becomes acquainted with Figure, a mercenary, and recovers the human soul she almost lost. Still, many seem to stand in her way: Kaos, Nova's son and a master of psychometry; Den, Kaos's alter-ego and the leader of the masses that oppose Tiphares; Koyomi, one of Den's groupies; the TUNED AR series, repli-

cas of—and replacements for—Alita. Bitter battles ensue, and Lou, the operator who serves as backup support for the TUNED system, is ultimately relieved of duty. Only then is the shocking truth revealed: Tipharean adults have all had their brains replaced by bio-chips!

Alita resists the hacking of her brain by Ouroboros and defeats Nova. It seems as if she has finally won, but a surprising trap awaits her as she makes her way back to Figure—Nova has regenerated himself through nano-technology. Alita is consumed in an explosion, and her brain is taken to Tiphares…

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA: LAST ORDER, VOLS. 1 & 2

Alita is resurrected by Nova, who gives her the ultimate Imaginos body. Upheaval and bloodshed rule Tiphares as its citizens descend into madness after Nova's bio-chip revelation. Jim, the young genius Nova has chosen as his successor, succumbs to despair and activates his monster robot Sachumodo. Alita battles Jim's creation and finally brings calm to the chaos.

In the depths of Tiphares, Alita finds Lou's body—a mere shell without her brain bio-chip. Devastated, Alita finds some hope in Nova's words: Lou could perhaps be brought back to life if they can find her organic brain, long ago taken to the Space City Ketheres. So Alita condescends to ride to Ketheres with Nova and his escort, the TUNED AR series…

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA: LAST ORDER VOL. 3
Angel Eternal
Action Editon

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Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

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First published in Japan in 2000 by
SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo.
English translation rights in the United States of America and Canada arranged by SHUEISHA, Inc. through CLOVERWAY INC.

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Printed in Canada.

Published by VIZ, LLC
P.O. Box 77064
San Francisco, CA 94107

Action Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, February 2004

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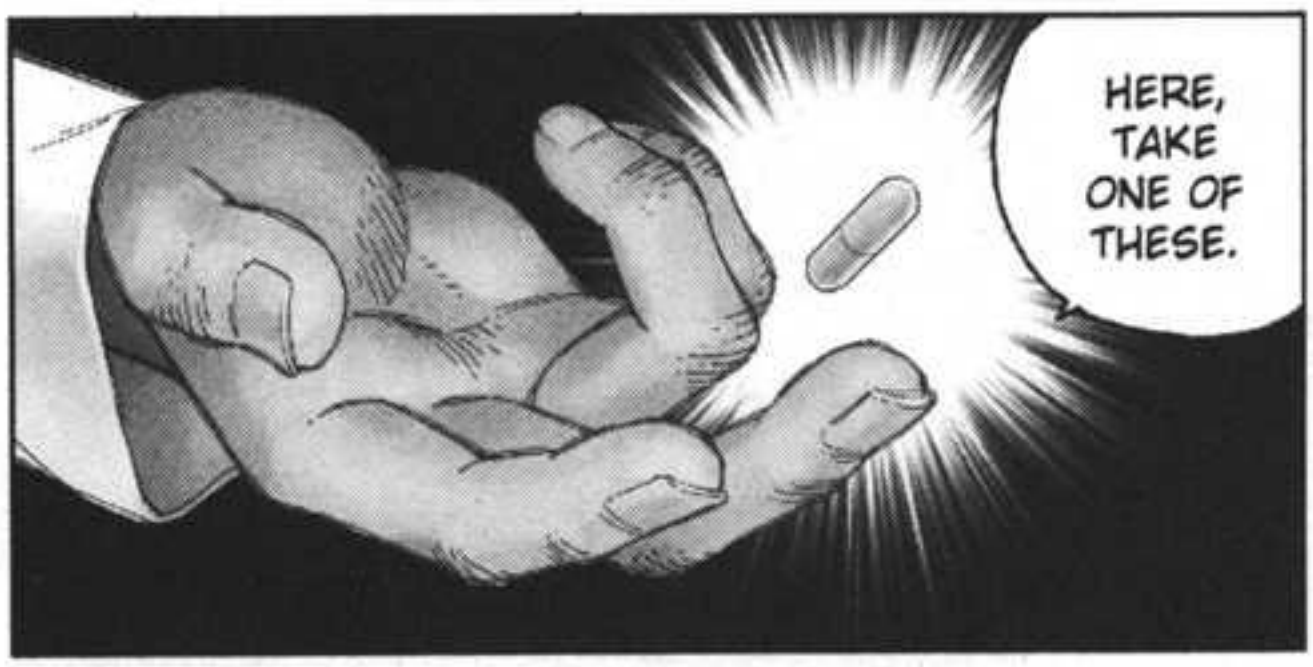
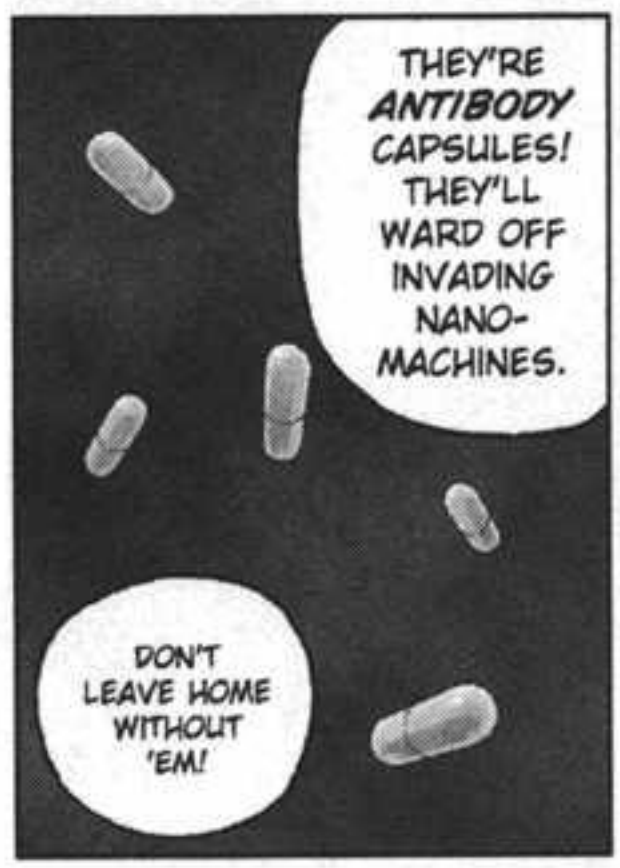
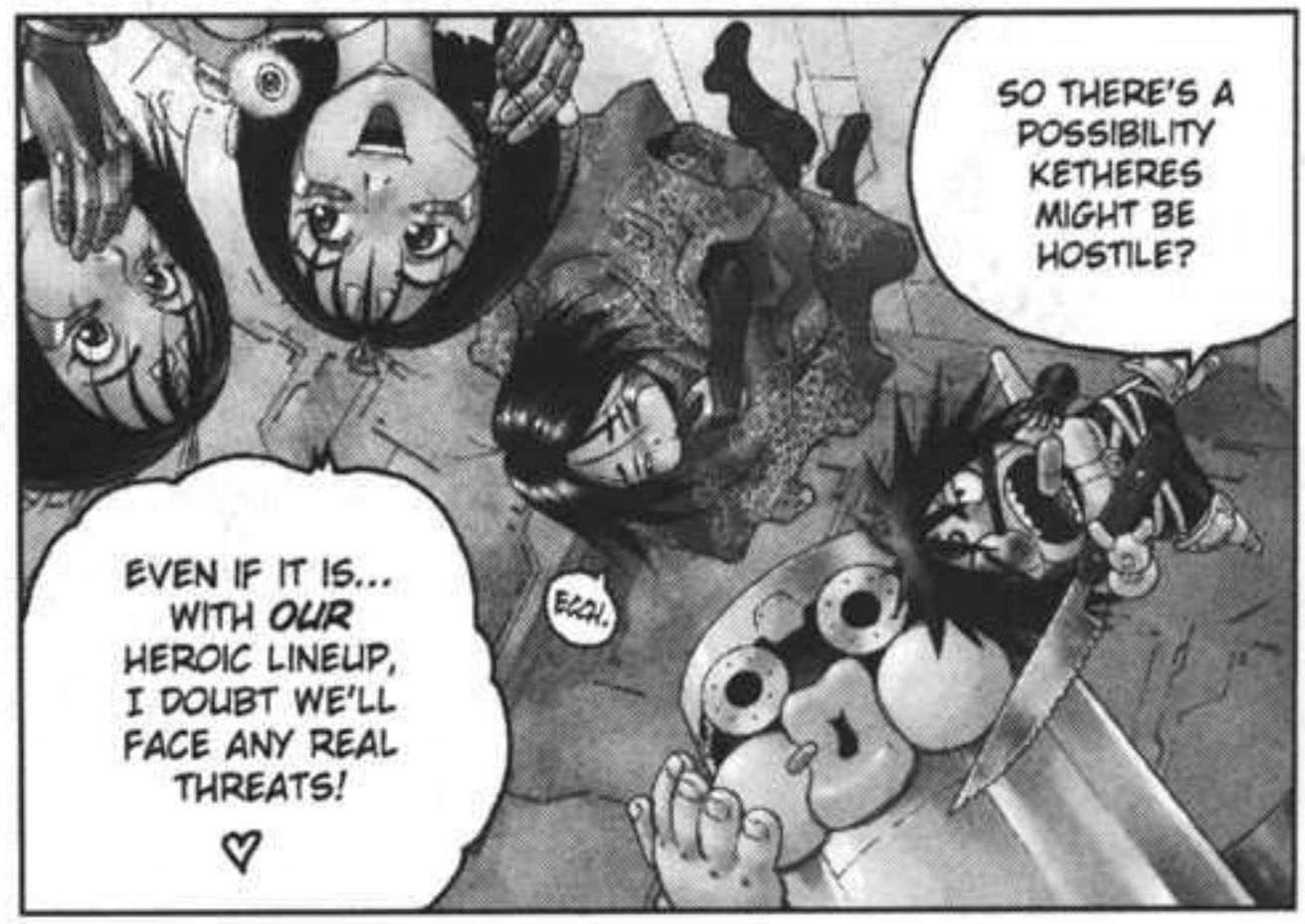

HERE, TAKE ONE OF THESE.


THEY'RE *ANTIBODY* CAPSULES! THEY'LL WARD OFF INVADING NANO-MACHINES.
DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT 'EM!

BAH!
YOU FIRST!
krek
Y-YOU'RE SO DIS-TRUSTFUL...


SO THERE'S A POSSIBILITY KETHERES MIGHT BE HOSTILE?
EVEN IF IT IS... WITH *OUR* HEROIC LINEUP, I DOUBT WE'LL FACE ANY REAL THREATS!
♡
ECCH.

LADDER IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED, I FEAR.
BUT LIKE THE ANCIENT CHINESE PROVERB SAYS...

The Space City Ketheres

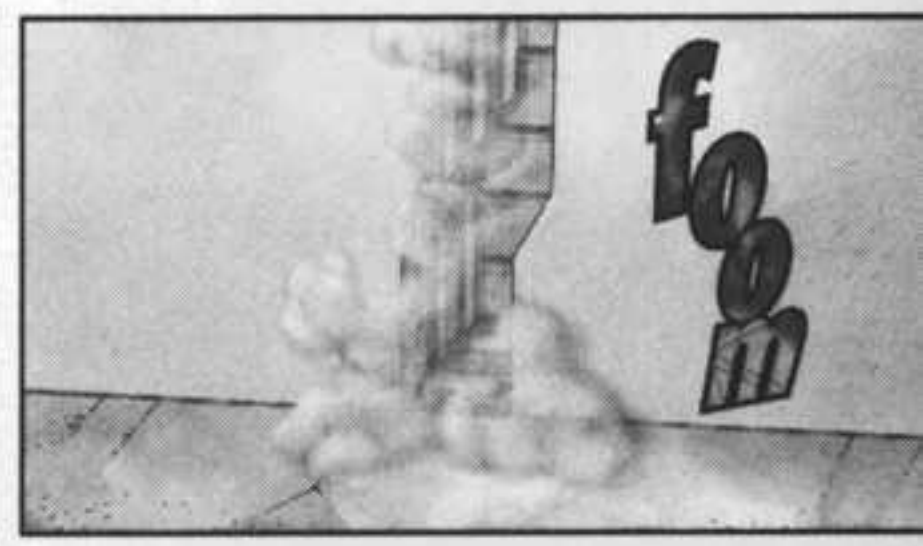
PHASE 13

The World's Zenith!

*“Nothing ventured, nothing gained.” Attributed to Ban Chao (approx. 32-102 AD), a Chinese general of the Eastern Han Dynasty, in Hou Hanshu (“The History of the Later Han”).

WOW! PRETTY, HUH? ♡
LOOK— IT'S EARTH! ♡

beep.
boop.
ZZZ


foom

fwooosh

HAVE YOU TWO FORGOTTEN OUR PLAN?!

SHE'S JUST JEALOUS 'CAUSE *WE'RE* BEST FRIENDS.

WHO MADE *HER* THE BOSS OF US?!

Go play on a mine!

Octo-lips!

GRRR! I'LL KILL THEM SOME DAY...

fssh

fwp

HMPH! SNEAKING AROUND AIN'T MY STYLE.

DON'T STEP OUT OF THE ELEVATOR UNTIL SECHS AND I CHECK THINGS OUT!

thump

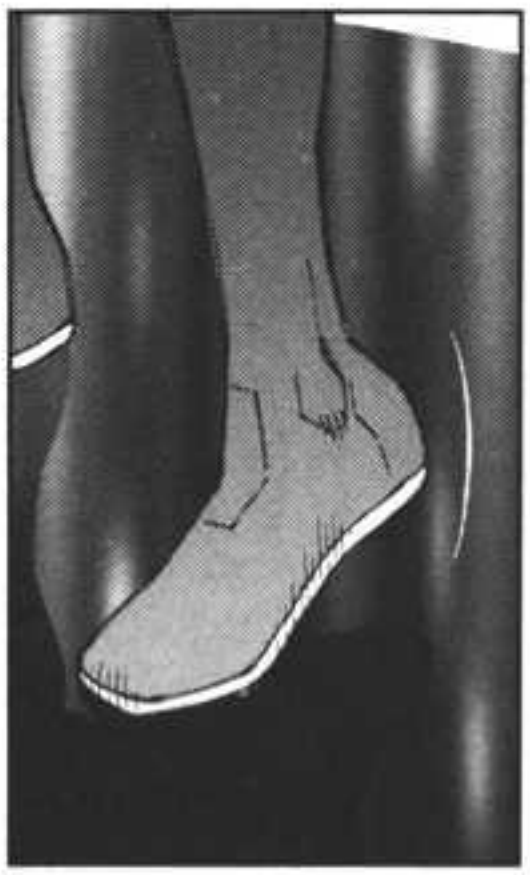
FEELING LIGHT IS A BONUS—BUT MOVING FAST WOULD TAKE SOME SKILL...

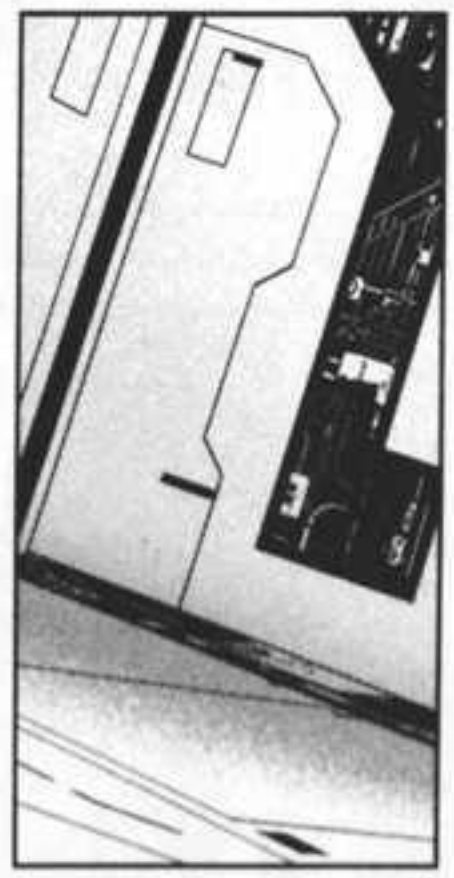
DOUBT THEY'VE DUG ANY PIT-FALLS...

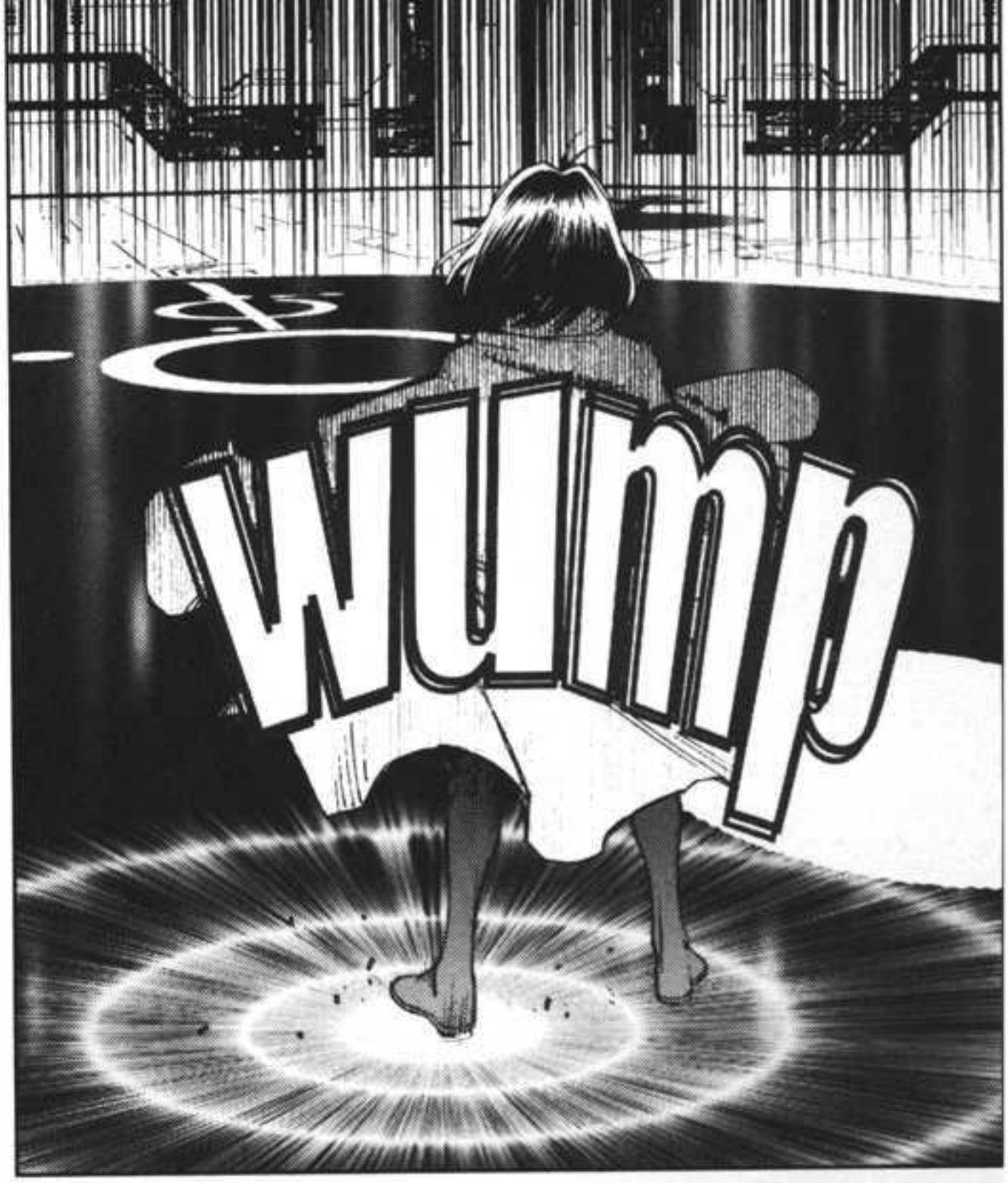
...WITH GRAVITY ONLY A THIRD OF EARTH'S!

...AT THEIR SHARPEST FOCUS!

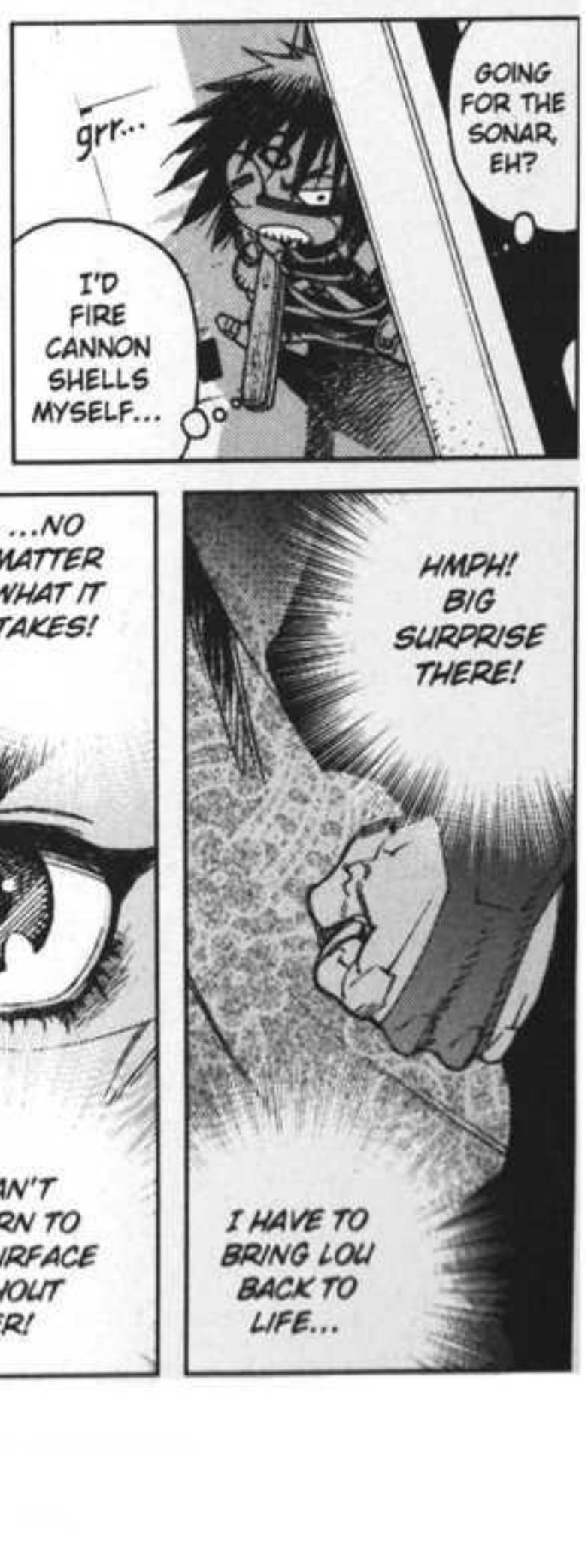
ELECTROMAGNETIC SENSES...

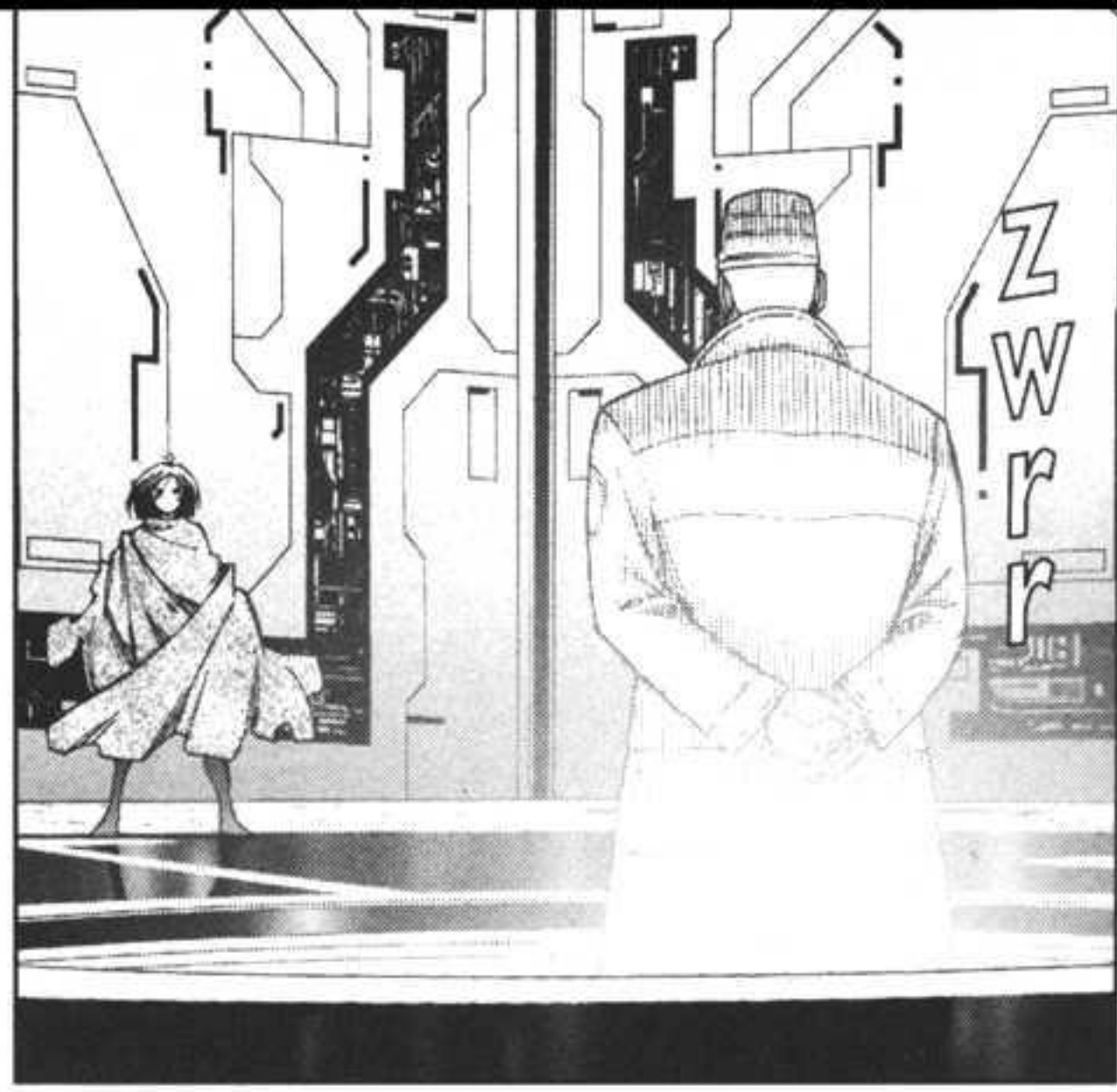





WUMP

WE'RE IN DANGER!
SHOCKWAVES... THEY'RE NOT REFLECTING BACK...
IS THIS HOW YOU TREAT VISITORS ?!
HEY! ANYBODY HOME?


grr...
GOING FOR THE SONAR, EH?
I'D FIRE CANNON SHELLS MYSELF...
...NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
I CAN'T RETURN TO THE SURFACE WITHOUT HER!
HMPH! BIG SURPRISE THERE!
I HAVE TO BRING LOU BACK TO LIFE...


zwrr

zmm
AH... I BEG YOUR PARDON!

tmp
tmp

klnk
MY NAME IS AGA MBADI.
I AM THE HITECHNOLAT MINISTER AND LADDER ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN.

NOT A HOLO-GRAM.
NORMAL BODY TEMP. FLESH AND BLOOD. UNARMED.

grr grr
ECHO-LOCA-TION THIS TIME.
I'D SNAP A COUPLA LIMBS FIRST...

WELCOME TO KETHERES.
THIS... IS THE WORLD'S ZENITH.

MY NAME'S ALITA.

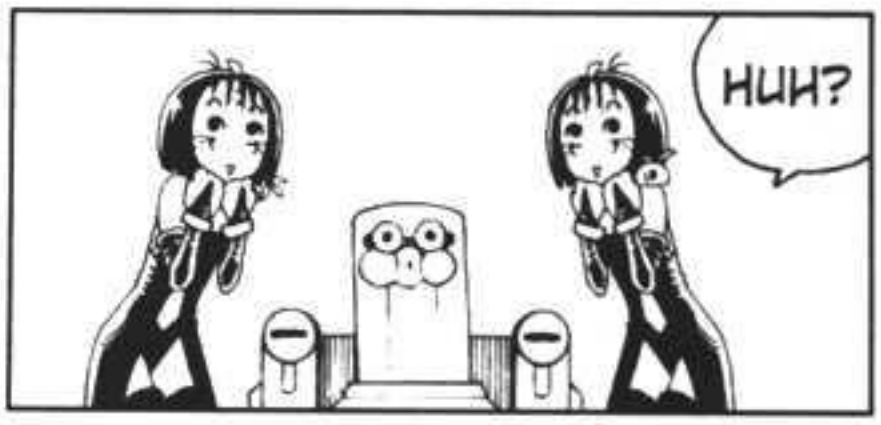
THANK YOU. YOU MAY STAND BACK NOW.

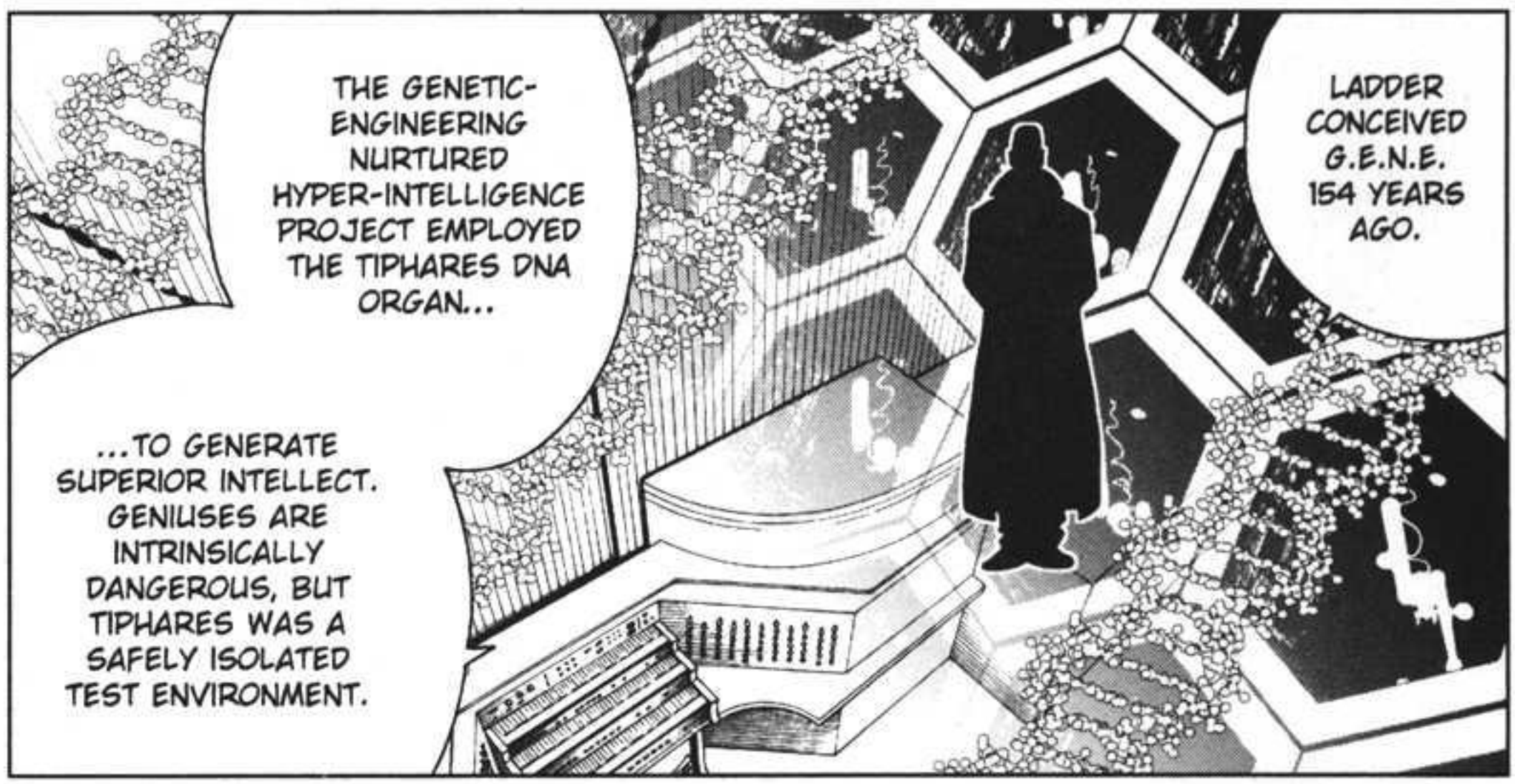
I WISH TO SPEAK WITH NOVA.

pat pat

DESTY NOVA.

YOU ARE OUR SON.




THE GENETIC-ENGINEERING NURTURED HYPER-INTELLIGENCE PROJECT EMPLOYED THE TIPHARES DNA ORGAN...
LADDER CONCEIVED G.E.N.E. 154 YEARS AGO.
...TO GENERATE SUPERIOR INTELLECT. GENIUSES ARE INTRINSICALLY DANGEROUS, BUT TIPHARES WAS A SAFELY ISOLATED TEST ENVIRONMENT.

ONLY *FOUR* AMONG THE REMAINING ONE PERCENT OUTWITTED THE M.I.B. AND SURVIVED A VARIETY OF HARDSHIPS TO ARRIVE HERE. *YOU* ARE THAT FOURTH.
NINETY-NINE PERCENT WERE UNSTABLE. THEY WERE FATED TO EITHER COMMIT SUICIDE OR BE SENTENCED AS GENETICALLY PREDISPOSED CRIMINALS.

WE WELCOME YOU AS OUR SON.
YOU HAVE PASSED THE TEST.

OF COURSE, I KNEW...
...THAT MR. ROSCOE AND I HAD BEEN... *MANU-FACTURED.*

NOVA ...

BUT HIS PSYCHE WAS INSUFFICIENTLY DIABOLICAL. MR. ROSCOE WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE TRUTH OF HIS CONTRIVED NATIVITY.
HE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT WHEN HE REACHED THE DNA ORGAN.

FREE WILL IS WHAT WE MAKE OF IT!
HOW WE LIVE IS ALL THAT MATTERS— NOT *WHO* MADE US, OR OUT OF *WHAT* PARTS!

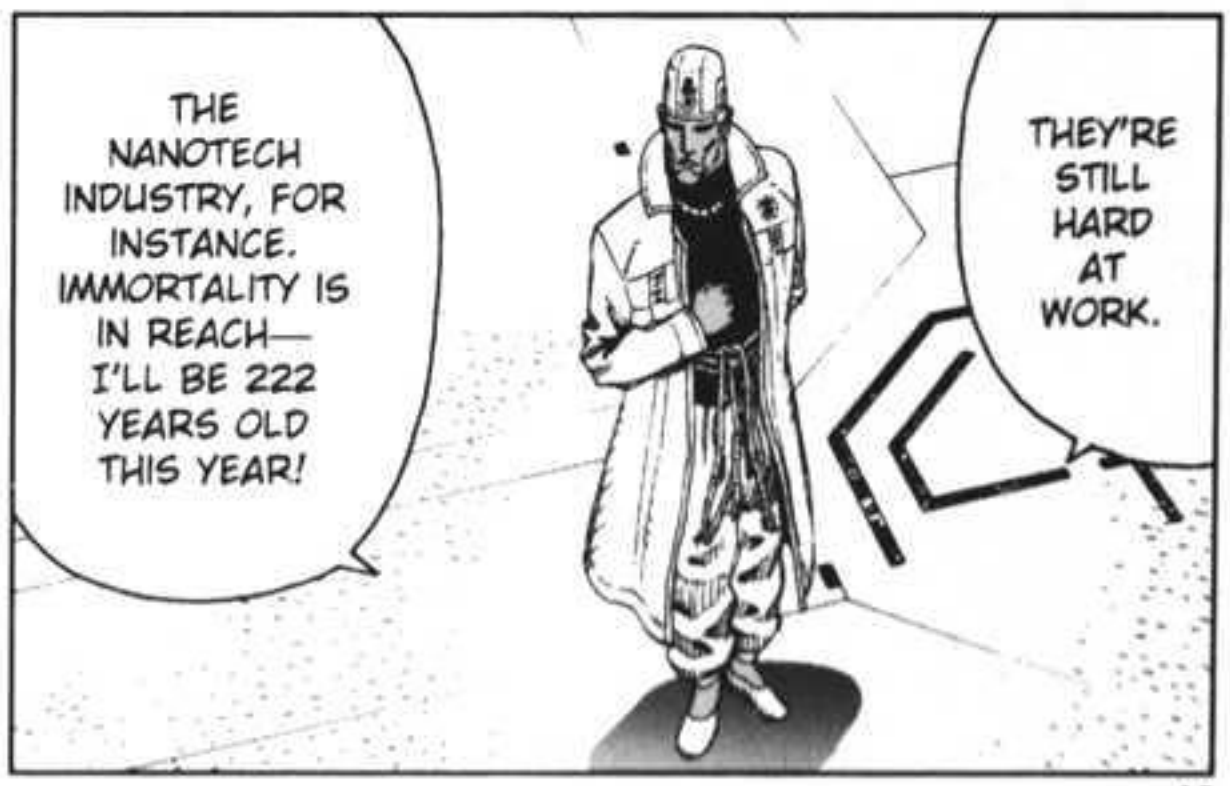
GENIUSES, FIGHTER ANDROIDS, CLONES...
...IT'S ALL THE SAME!

...HE'S SOUGHT FREEDOM JUST LIKE ME!

DESTY NOVA! SO ALL THESE YEARS...

HEH, HEH... CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR PREDECES-SORS?

THE THREE TIPHAREANS WHO CAME HERE BEFORE ME—WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?



YOU DON'T MIND PLAYING HOSTAGE, DO YOU? JUST UNTIL WE KNOW WE'RE SAFE HERE.

krek

!

grmp

...THOUGH I'D BE MORE CAREFUL IN REGARD TO *TOUCHING* A POTENTIAL ENEMY...

IT IS WISE TO BE WARY...

NOW, NOW!

OWW!

SOME-THING'S WRONG— GET BACK!

tip tip

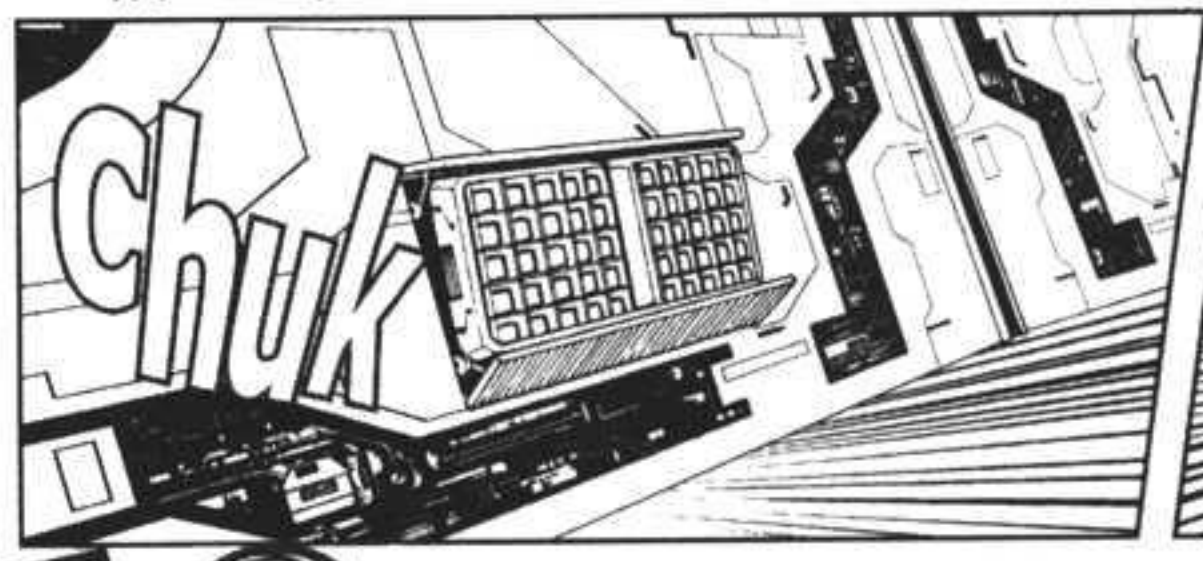
Squee!

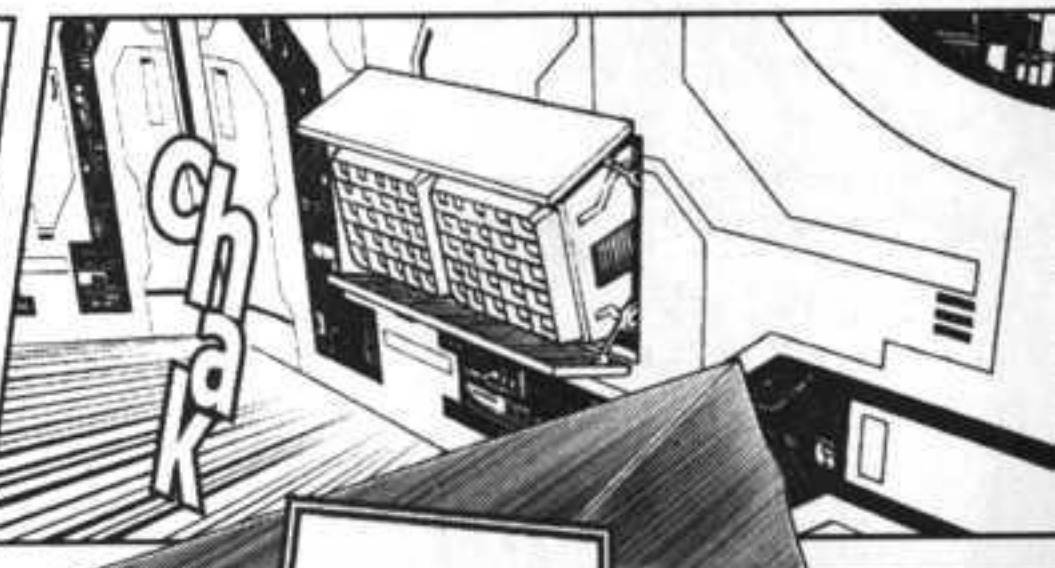
HMM?

I wanna fire some-thing off.

fwsh
GYAH?!

HUH?!
gwom


chuk
jiri


chak

10
ft
zap

zoit

zip

zap

UNH?!

IDIOT! ACT FIRST, THREATEN LATER!

fWing

CUT IT OUT! MAKE THIS STOP OR I'LL...

knk

sksh

...GET ME...

?! I-I CAN'T...

THAT SLOW-ASS THROW WON'T...

jing

HEH... SO THERE'S ONE MORE!

snik

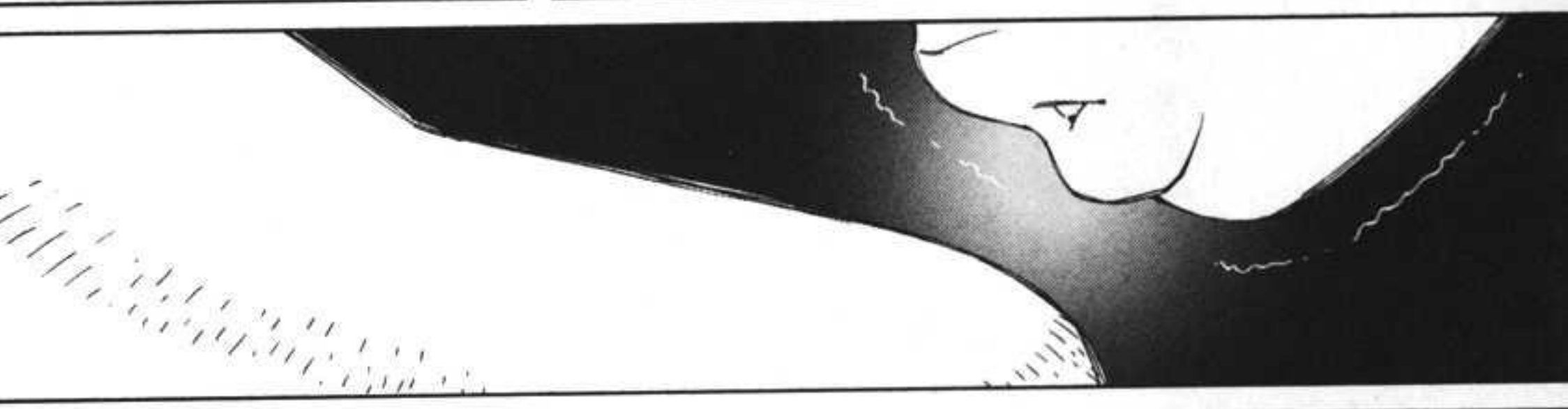
zip
slikt
...M-MO...
wmmm
UNH ...?!
BUT HE'S FLESH AND BLOOD— HE CAN'T...!
twsh
tmp
tnk

YOU'RE BUILT A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHER ANDROIDS.

UNH!

GO ON! KISS IT!

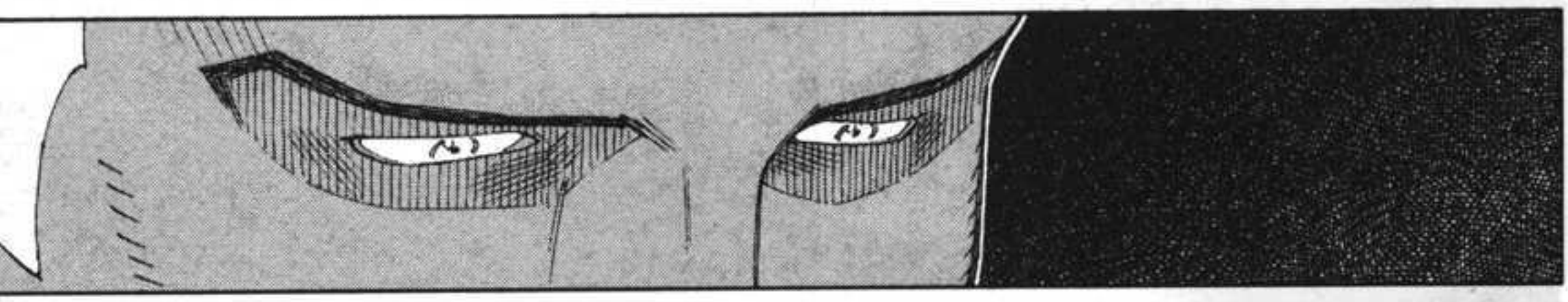
THIS IS FOR TWISTING MY ARM.



...
...

Vrrm!

vip



Flash!

THE CUBE POLYMER DRAINS THE ENERGY FROM THE NANOBOTS, REDUCING THEIR SPEED 10,000-FOLD.
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE TO BREAK FREE.
tink
tink

zlt
zup

THE OTHER GENIUSES *ARE* STILL ALIVE...
...INSIDE MY *SKULL!*
WHAT I SAID WAS NO LIE.

NOVA!

THAT'S HOW I GOT MY ALIAS— *"TRINIDAD."*

...I MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE MY NICKNAME TO QUADRA! HAH...

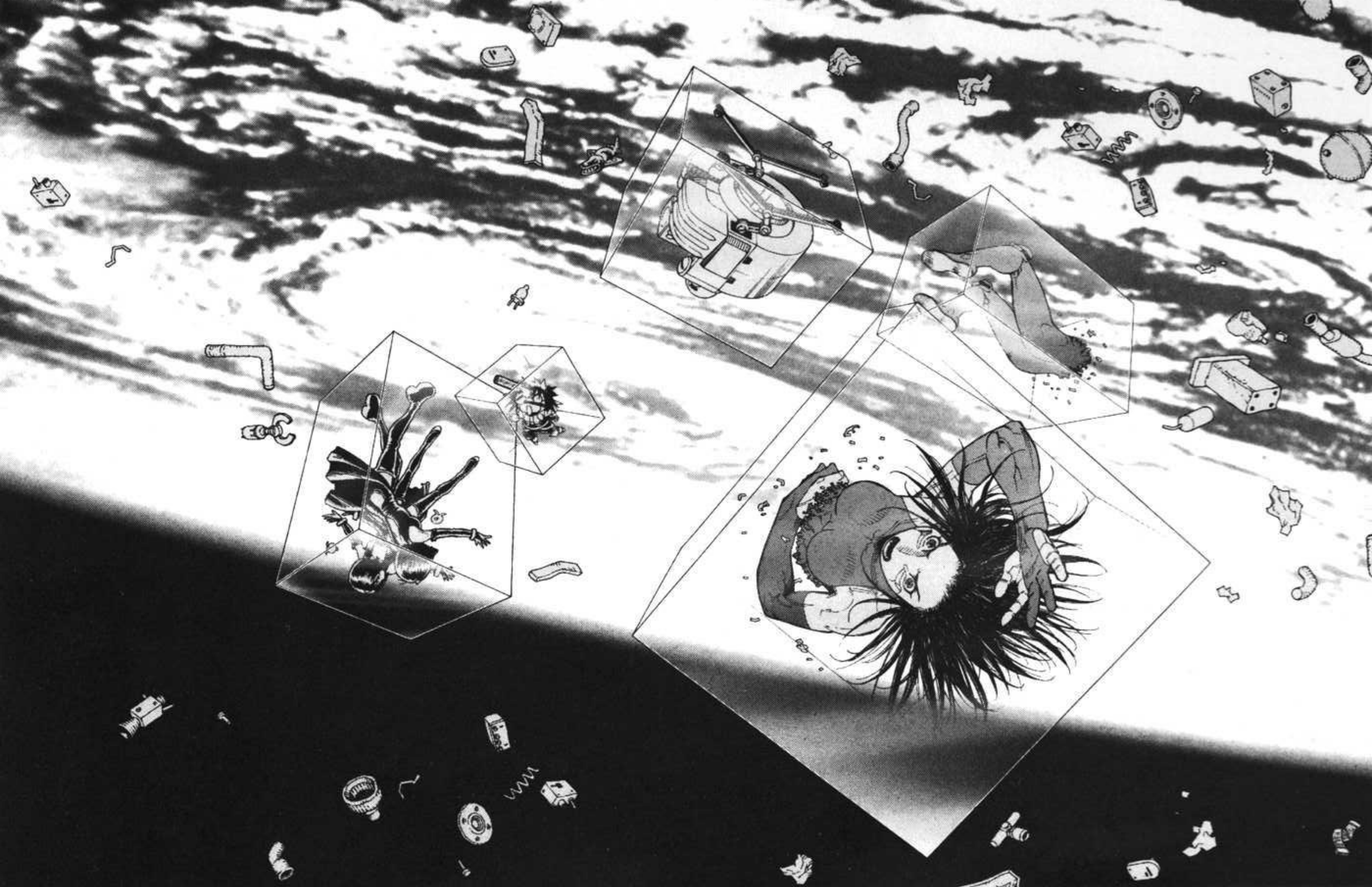
HEH, HEH! IF I ADD ***YOUR*** BRAIN BIO-CHIP...

tunk
k-unk

UTTER DEFEAT... I'M COMPLETELY POWERLESS!
LOU...!

WAAH! I DON'T WANNA DIE IN THIS DORKY POSITION!
DON'T THROW ME OUT!
AT UEAST WE UILL DIE TOGETHER, MASTER!

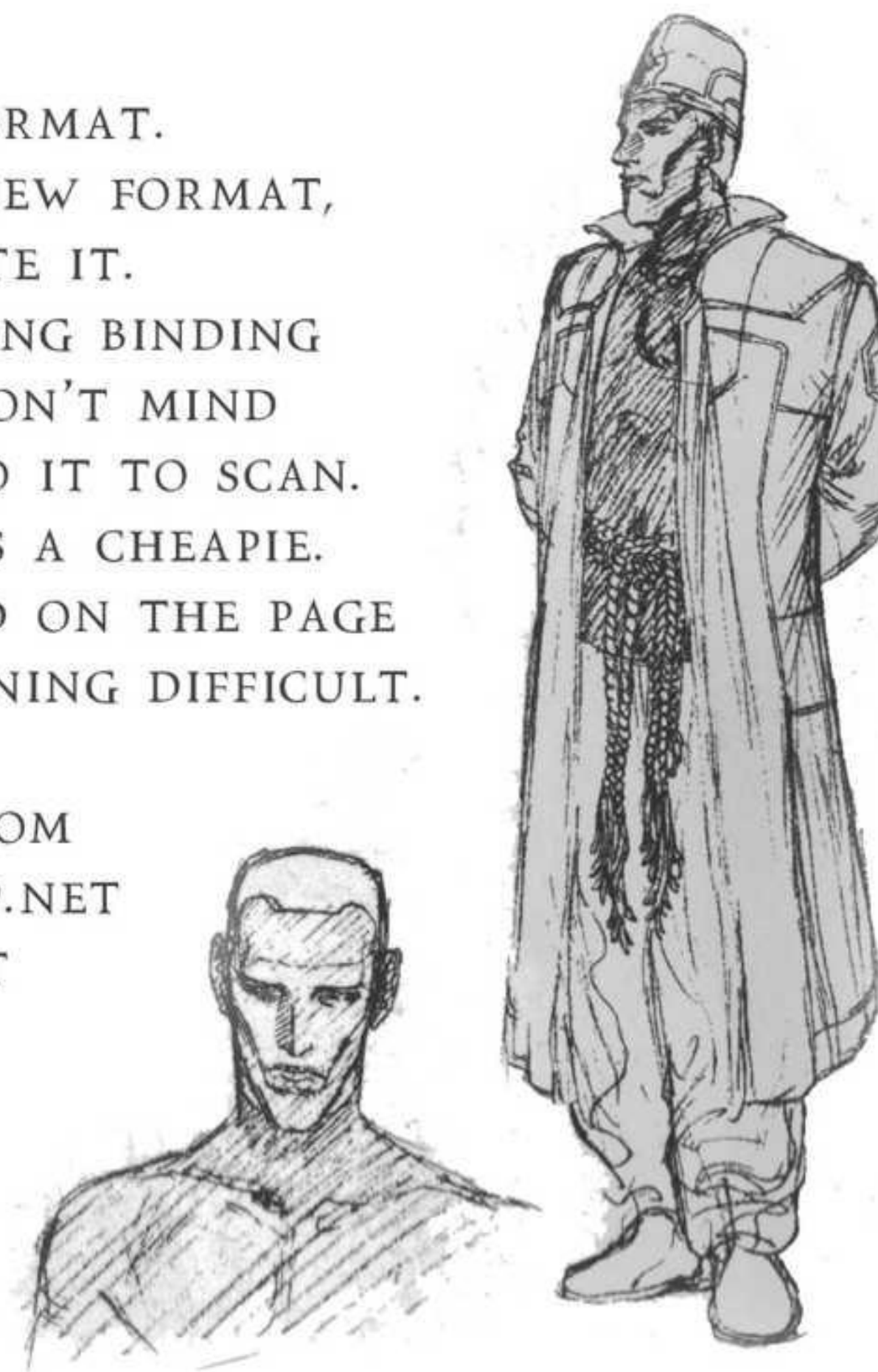
foom



SCANER'S NOTES

THESE SCANS ARE DONE AT 300 DPI
AND ARE IN THE RAW FORMAT.
NO CLEANING OR CONTRAST ADJUSTMENTS
HAVE BEEN MADE. THIS IS A PROBLEM
BECAUSE MY SCANER'S BULB IS GOING OUT.
YOU MAY NOTICE THAT THE RIGHT OF THE PAGES
ARE A LITTLE DARKER THAN THE LEFT.
I MAY CLEAN OR RESCAN THEM AT A LATER DATE.
ENJOY.
-SHADES

ON THE NEW VIZ FORMAT.
AS A READER I LOVE THE NEW FORMAT,
AS A SCANNER I HATE IT.
THEY HAVE A REALLY STRONG BINDING
WHICH IS GOOD AND I DON'T MIND
THE EXTRA EFFORT TO UNDO IT TO SCAN.
HOWEVER THE PRINTING IS A CHEAPIE.
THE IMAGES ARE NOT ALIGNED ON THE PAGE
AND THIS MAKES QUALITY SCANING DIFFICULT.



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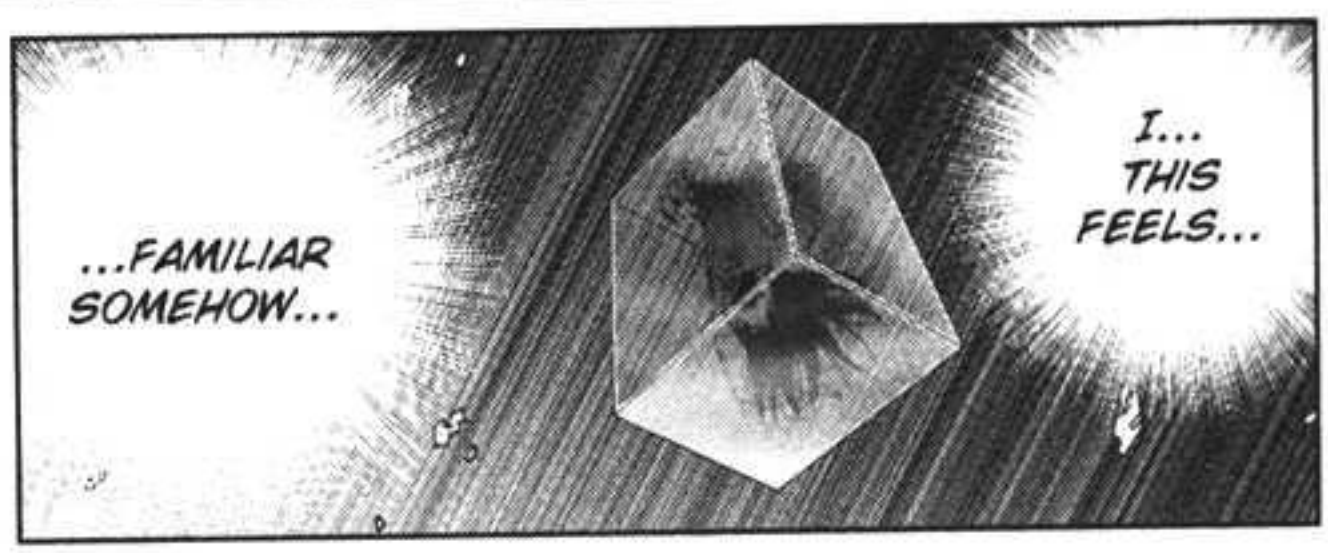
PHASE 14

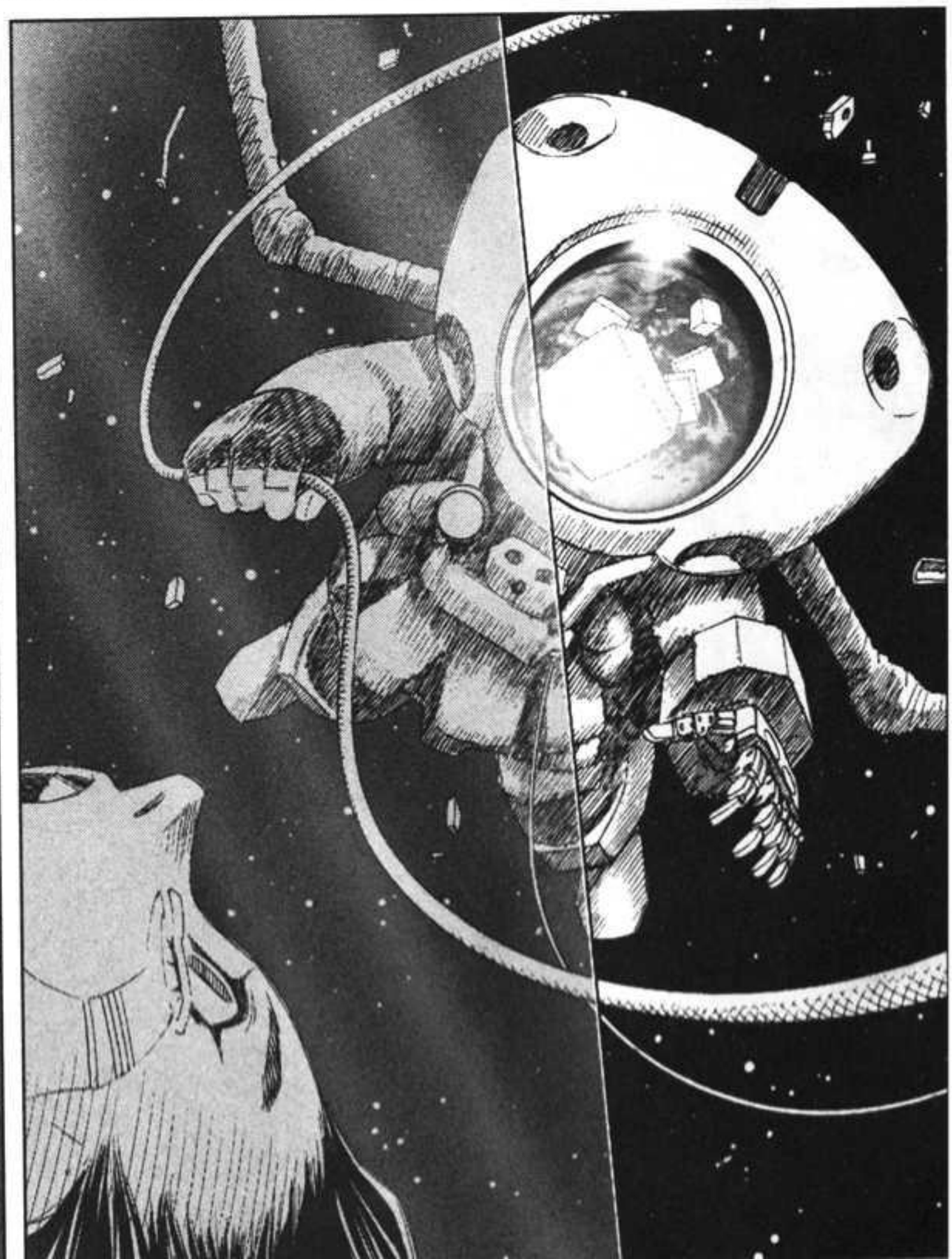
The King of the Land of Robots, and...

ドッ

DAMN! IT'S NO USE... I CAN'T EVEN PRODUCE PLASMA!

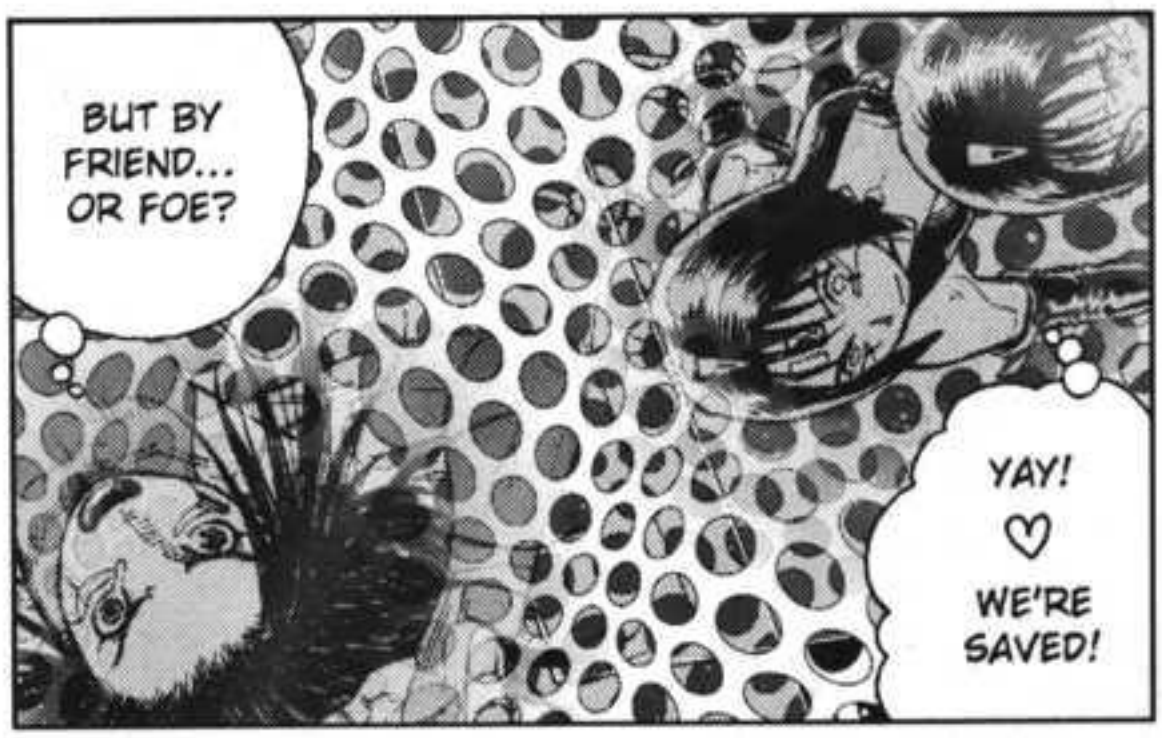
ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION WILL INCINERATE US! IF I CAN JUST—





tnk

bonk



boop!

SCRAM! OUTTA MY WAY!

beep!

fwshhh

beeep!

PIECE A' CAKE!

baboop

NO PROB'!

MOLE-CULAR-LOCK CODE MC 42.

CAN YOU MAKE A KEY, BOSS?

bip

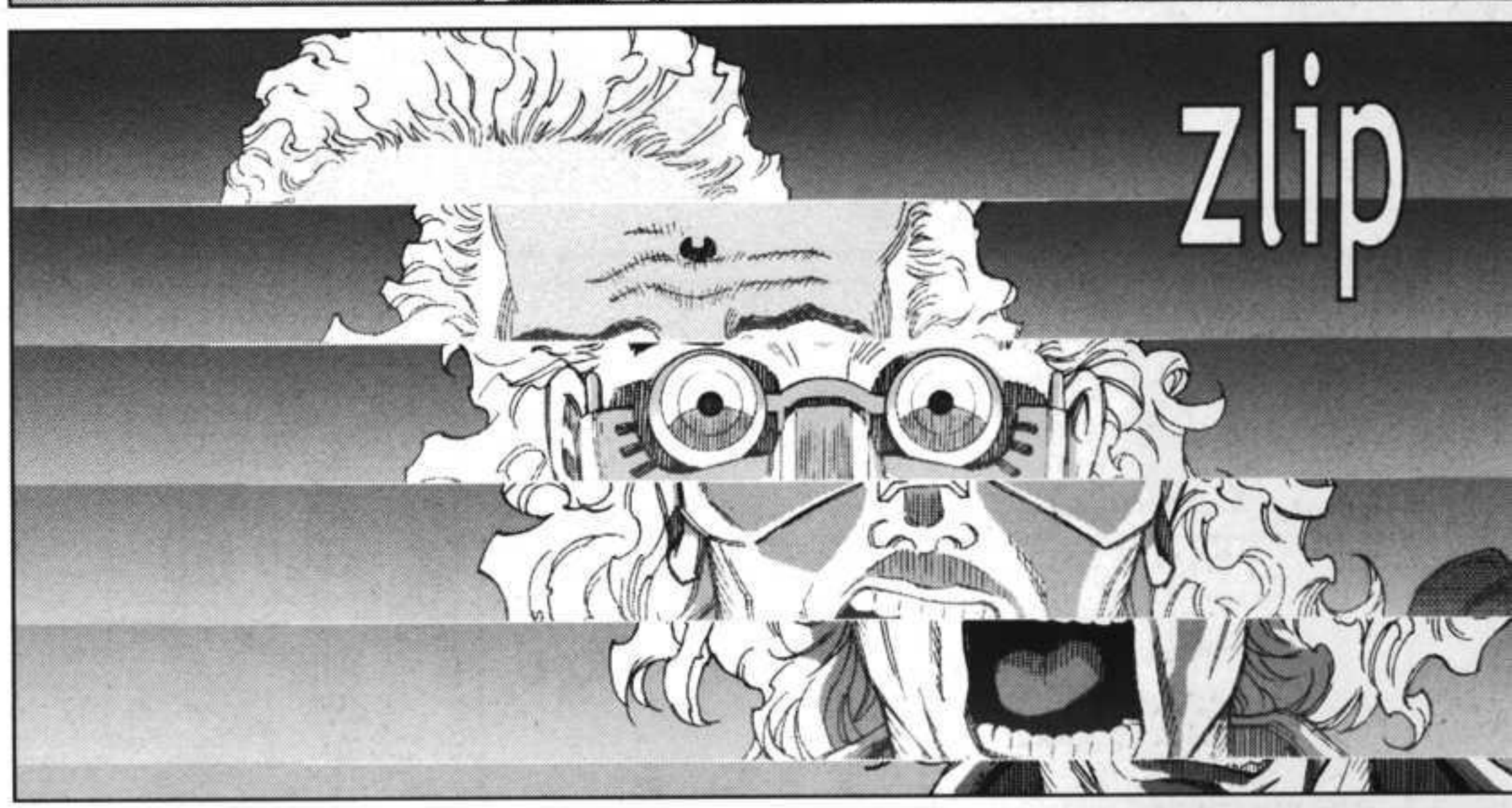
bip

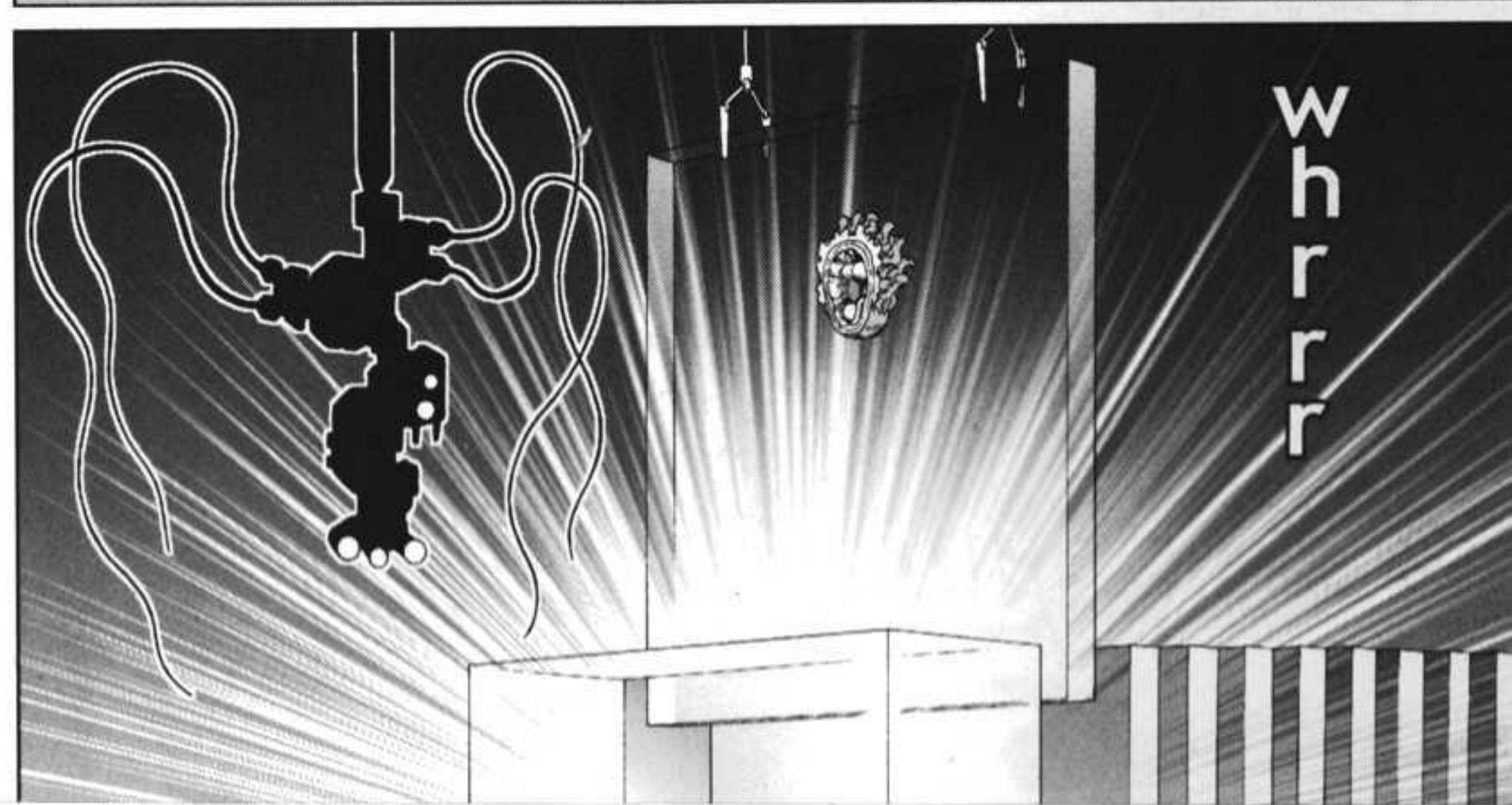
bip

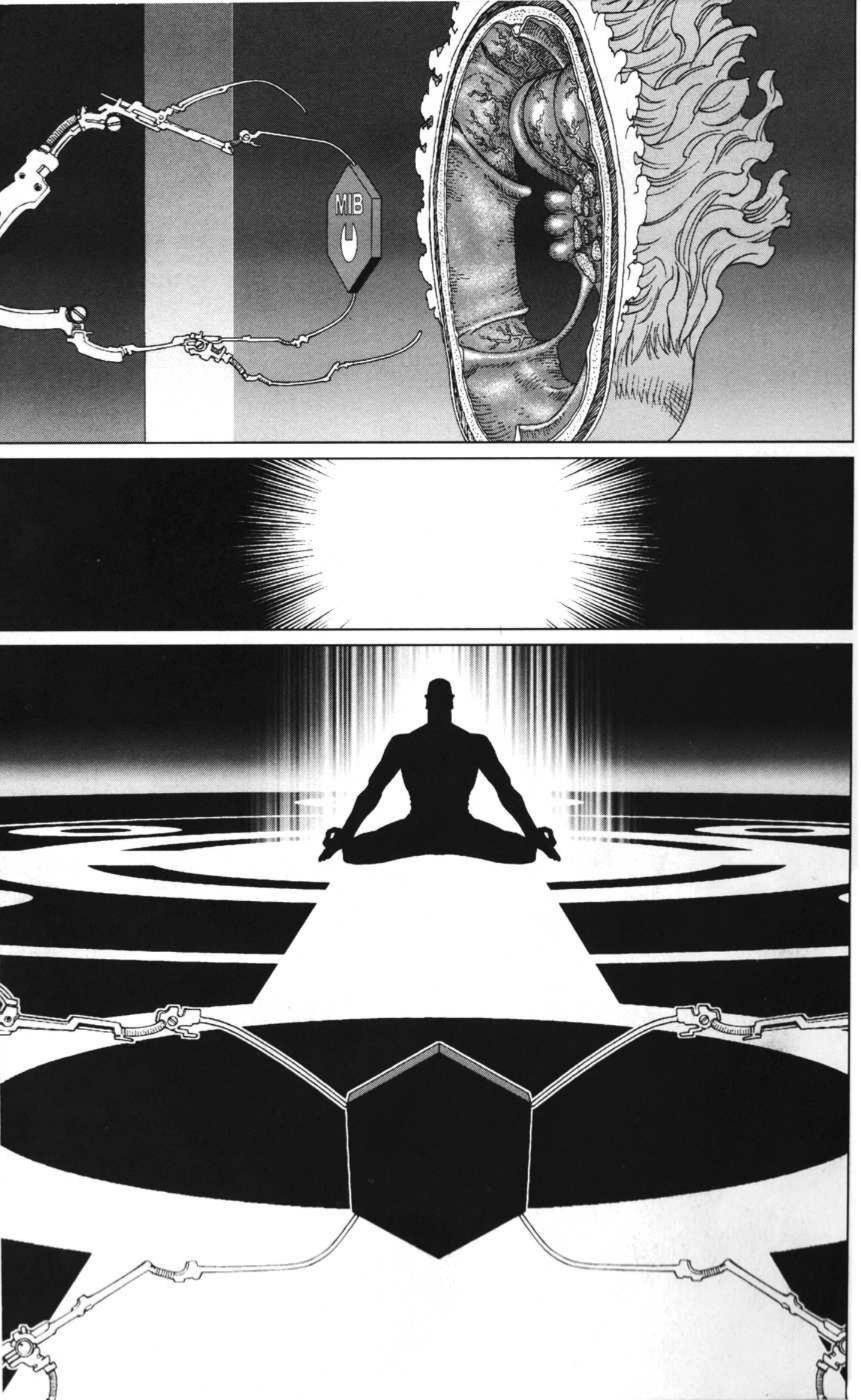
bip

blrb/
PICKING A FIGHT WITH *TRINIDAD* OF ALL PEOPLE...
klik
fzzt
-KOFF-
-KOFF-
sPlssh
-KOFF-
URP...

THERE'S NOTHING AS HAZARDOUS AS IGNORANCE.


zlip

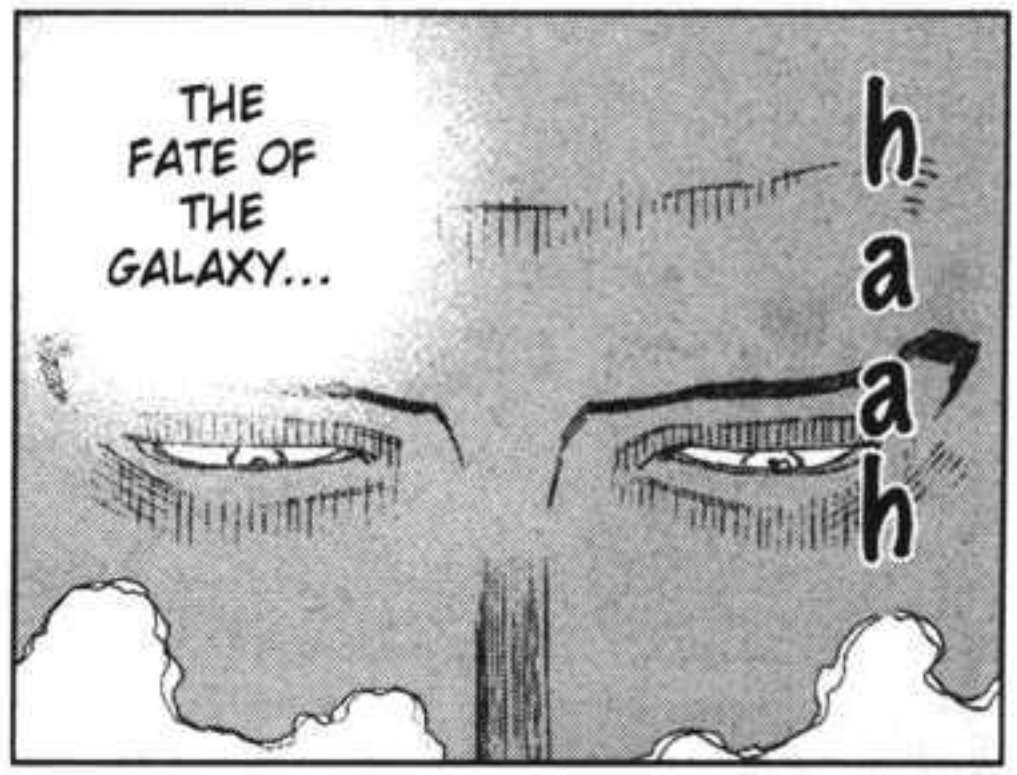

whrrr


MIB

THIS ASSIMILATION WILL BE AN ORDEAL LIKE NO OTHER.
ふぅぅぅ

tug

teg


THE FATE OF THE GALAXY...
haah

fuuu
...MAY WELL HANG IN THE BALANCE.
THE CEREMONY MUST BE FLAWLESS.

OM.

THE LADDER SESSION BEGINS.

BUT I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME...
haah

...SO EMOTIONAL— LIKE IT'S GOT *PMS!*

THIS *ONE* ROBOT...

kuk

kuk

skuk

heh heh

JUST A JOKE!

NO HARM DONE!

THOUGHT YOU WERE A ROBO-CAT!

TOO BAD! ALL YOU NEED IS A *POCKET!*

BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW—I'M *NOT* A *ROBOT!*

I...I'M SORRY...

KALE HERE IS MY PARTNER— COMES IN HANDY.

MY NAME'S PING...

PING WU.

NICE TA MEETCHA.

klek

tek

I'LL THAW THESE PESTS LATER.

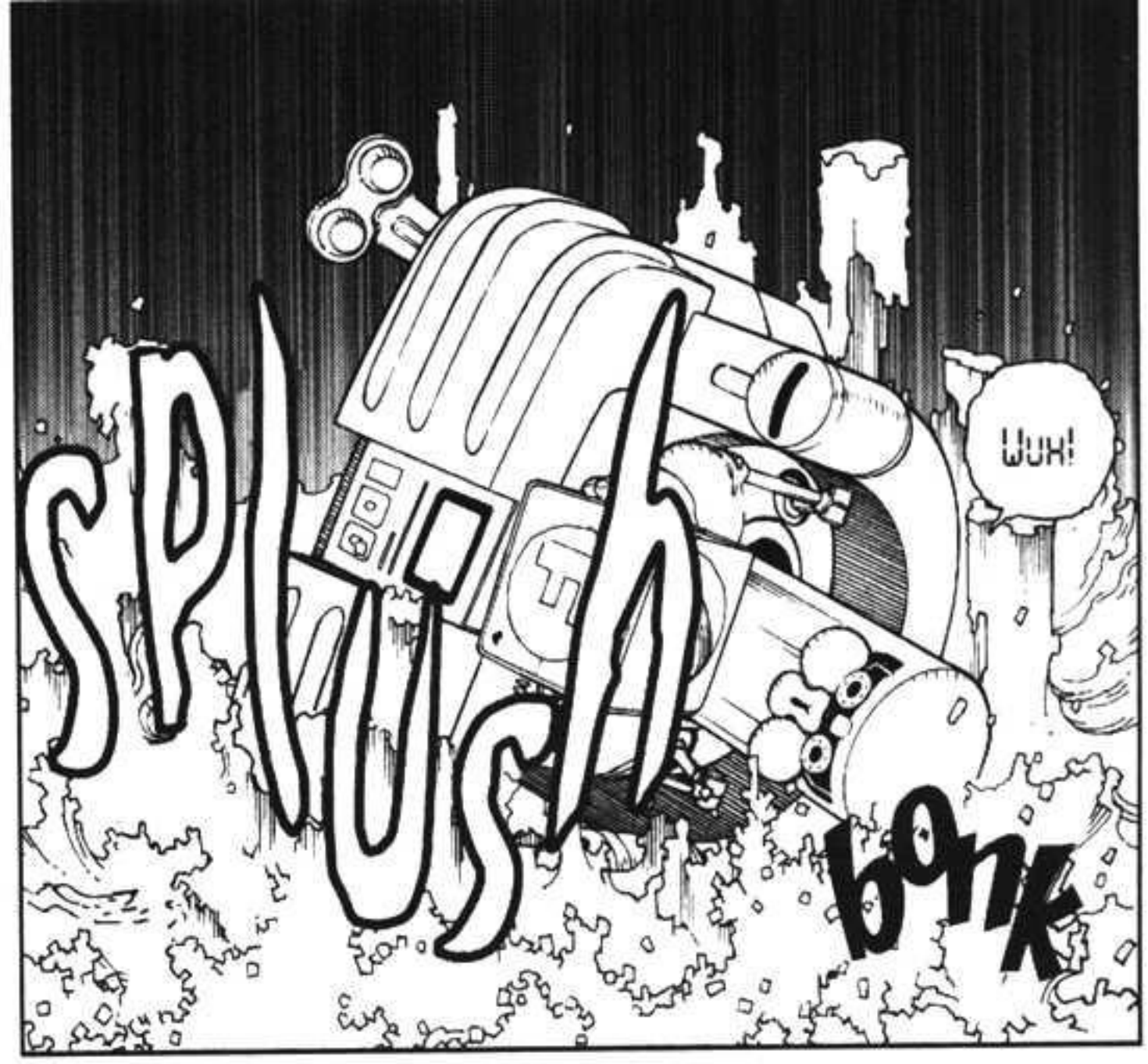
CIRCUMSTANCES OUT THERE FORCED ME TO MOVE HERE. IT'S BEEN A HUNDRED YEARS NOW.

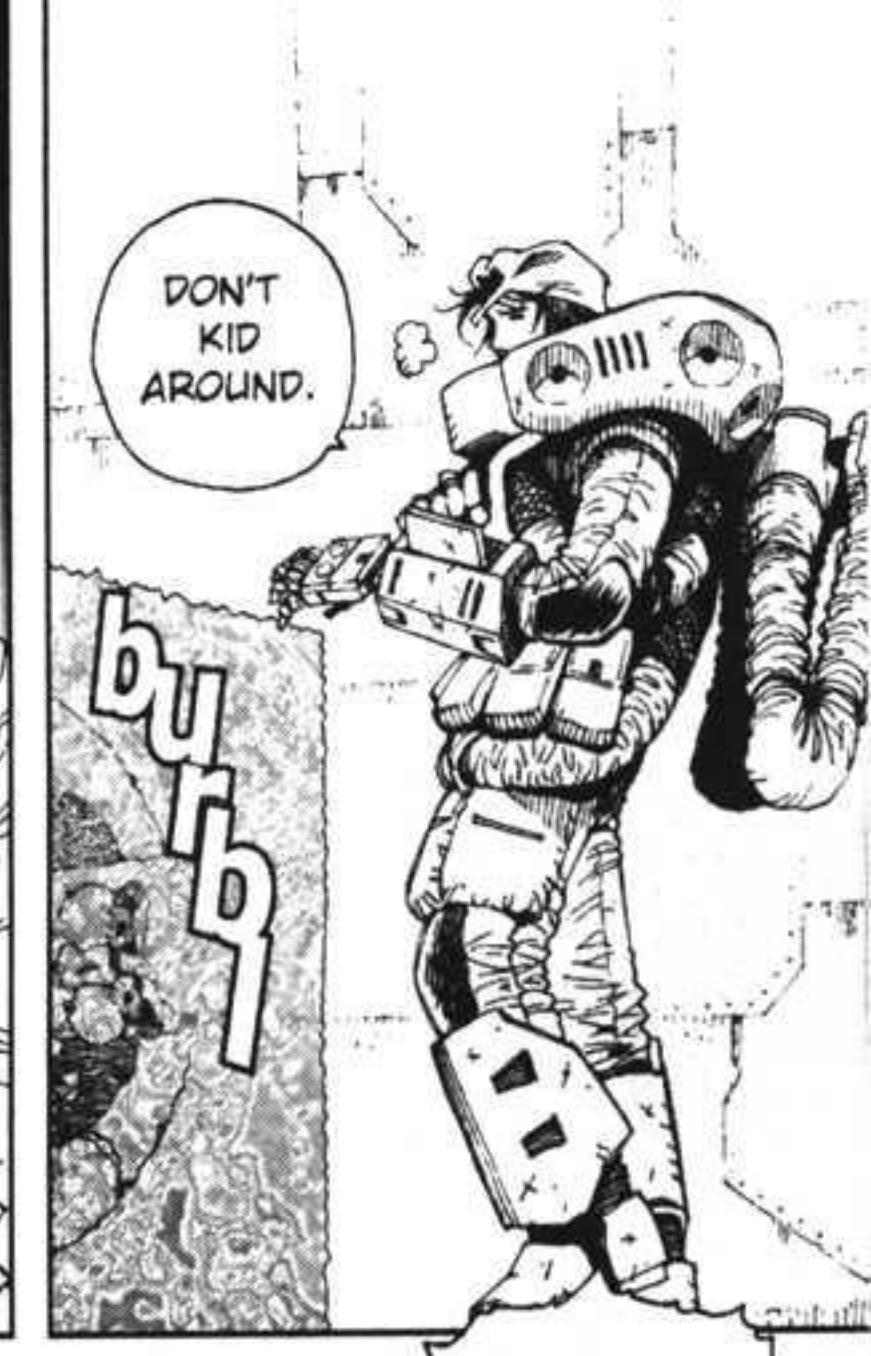
RELAX! YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.

ROBO-ASYL IS THE SIDE OF KETHERES PEOPLE DON'T TALK ABOUT MUCH.

NO FAIR!

THE NERVE!

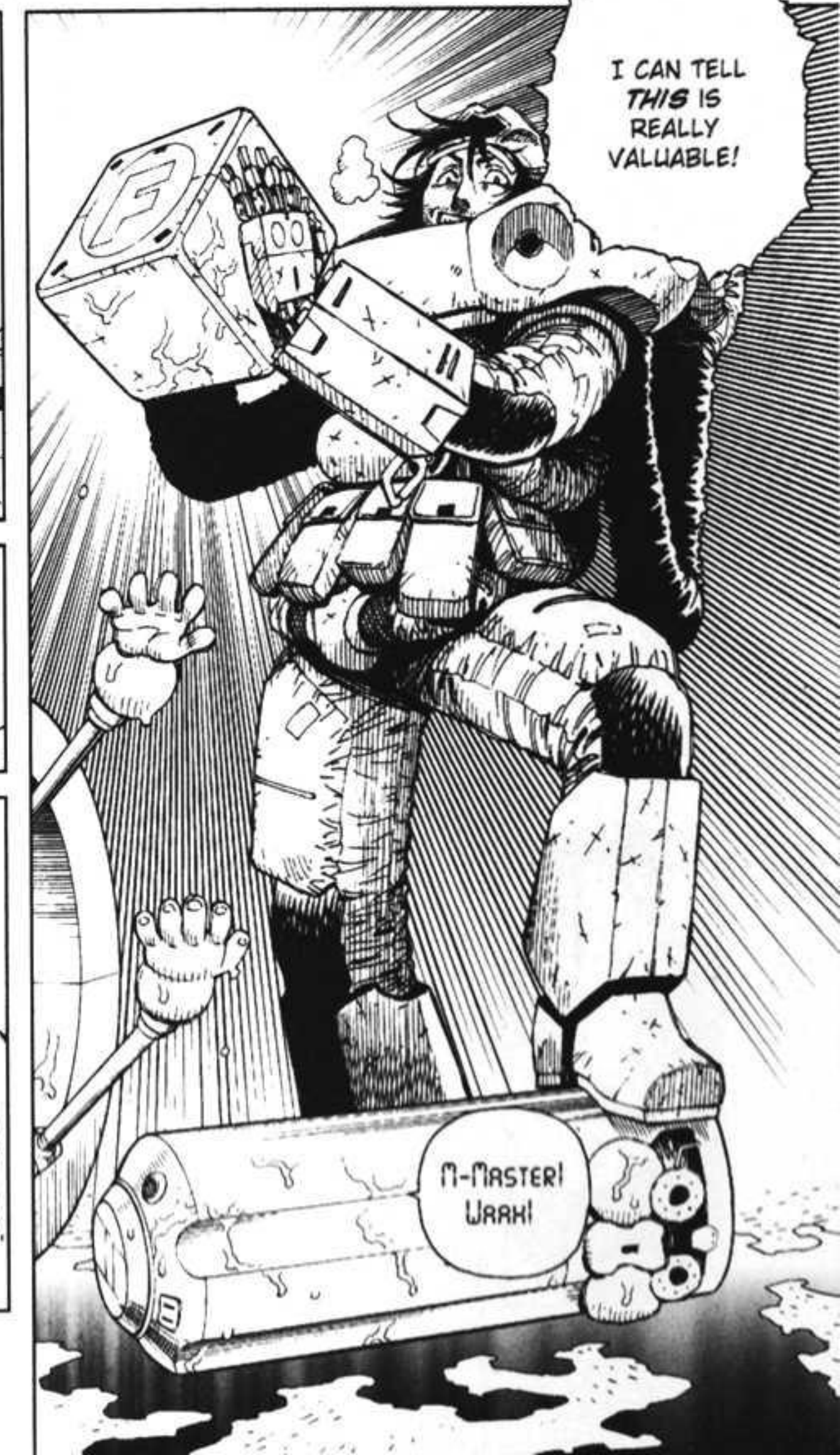

SPLUSH!
WUH!
bonk


DON'T KID AROUND.
burb

heh heh
I SAW YOU GUYS IN ACTION DOWN THERE.
HACKING SURVEIL-LANCE CIRCUITS IS MY HOBBY.

I OWE YOU MY LIFE!
TO PART WITH THAT BOX WOULD BE A GREAT LOSS, BUT...

WOO-HOO!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, IT'S YOURS!
WHO KNOWS WHAT NOVA'S HIDING IN THERE...

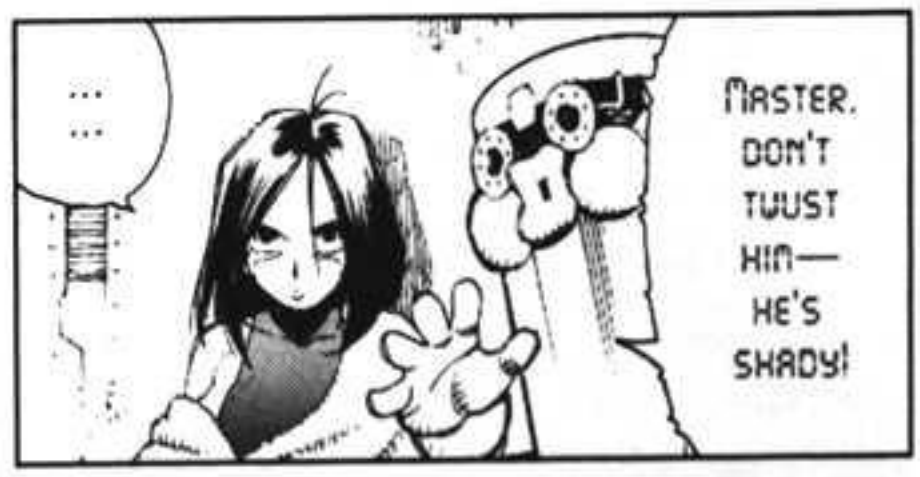

I CAN TELL THIS IS REALLY VALUABLE!
M-MASTER! WRAH!

HIRE ME THEN! I CAN BE A LOTTA HELP!

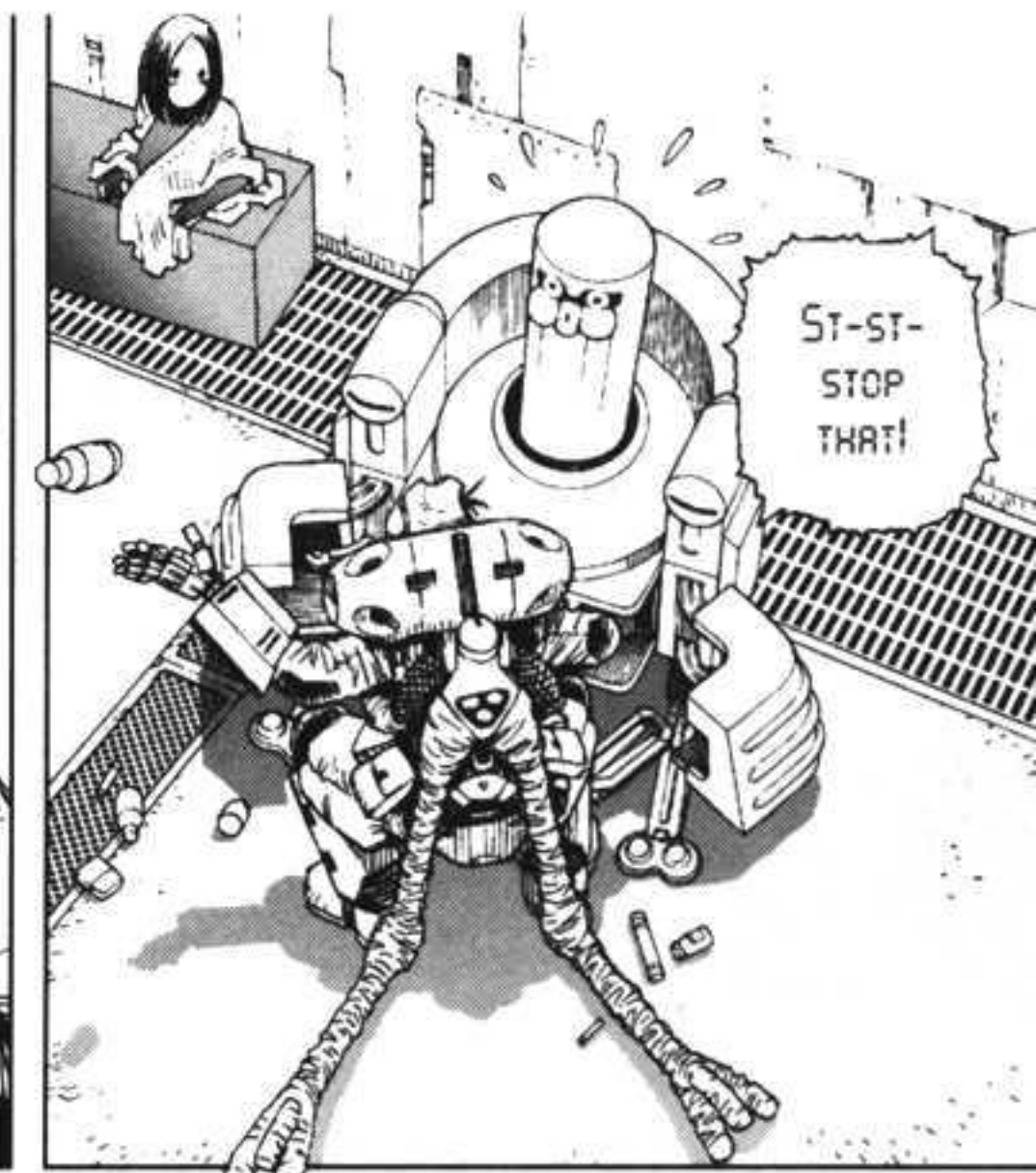
SO YOU WANNA GET YOUR FRIEND'S BRAIN BACK, RIGHT, ALITA?

'COURSE, I DON'T COME CHEAP... HEH!

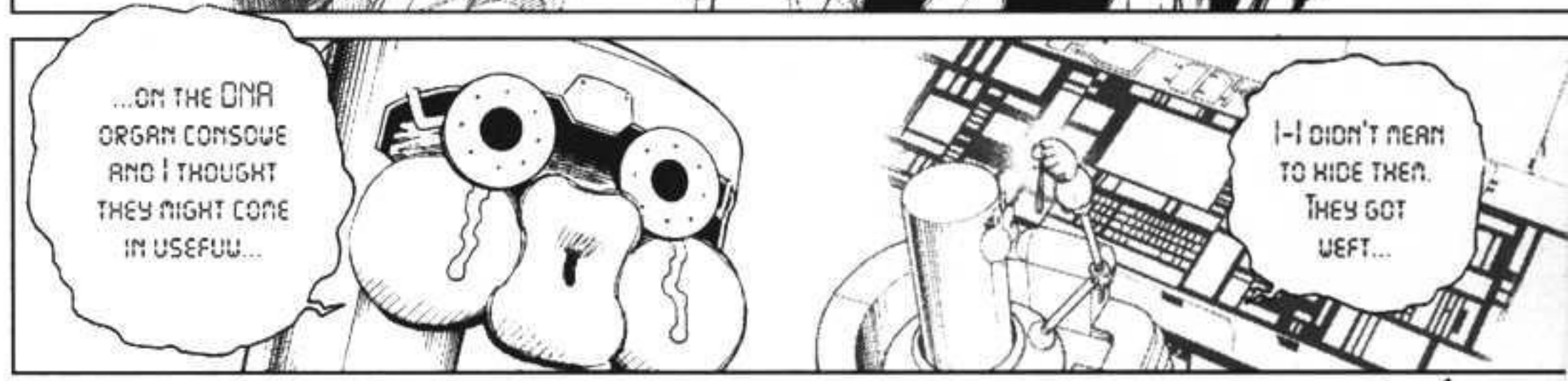
I KNOW KETHERES INSIDE AND OUT—*AND* ALL OF TRINIDAD'S TRICKS!



THEN WHADDAYA CALL THESE?
klink
HMM?


ST-ST-STOP THAT!

NOVA'S BRAIN BIO-CHIPS— THE ONES JIM ROSCOE TOOK! HOW'D THEY GET INSIDE NO. 100?!
AH! TH-THOSE ARE—

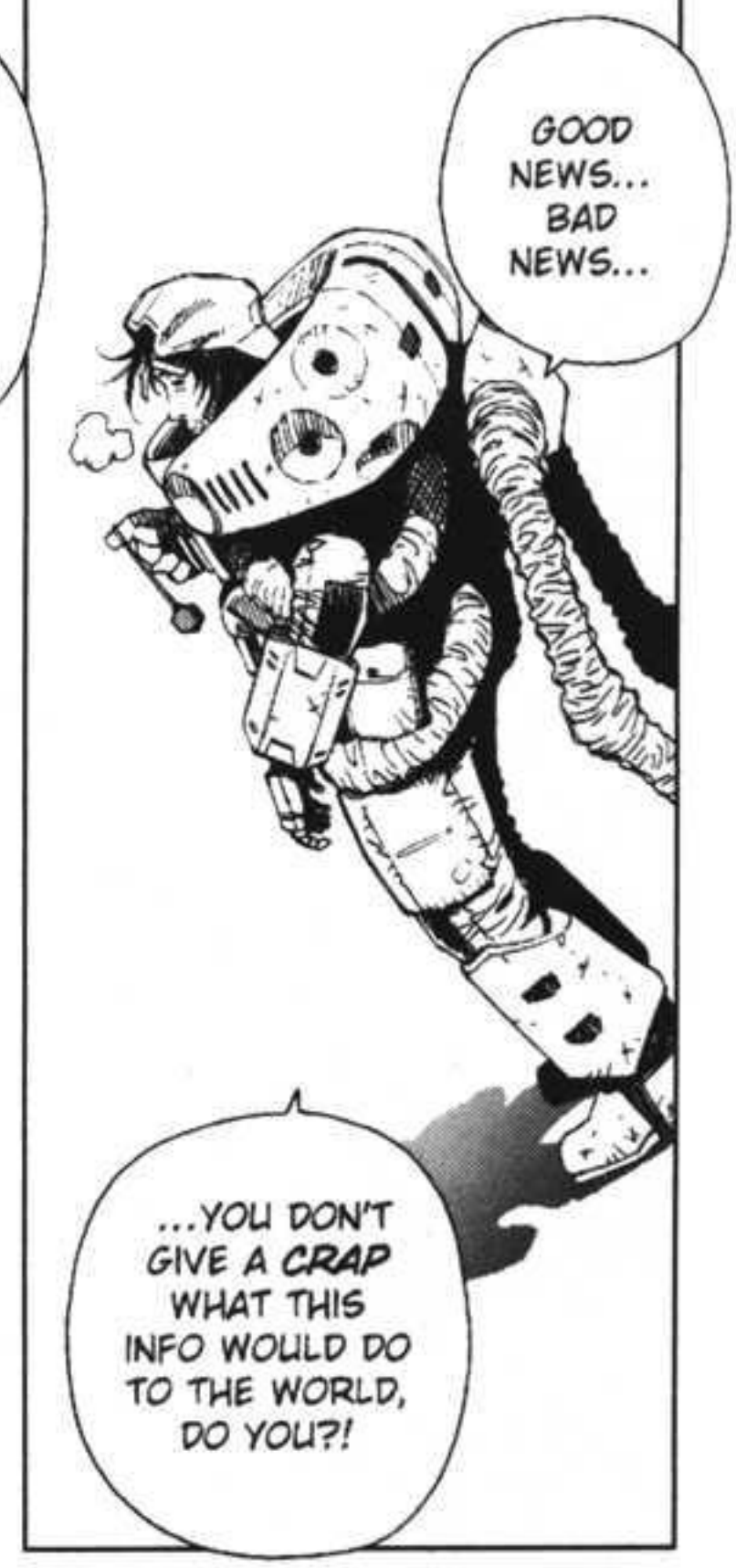

...ON THE DNA ORGAN CONSOLE AND I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT COME IN USEFUL...
I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIDE THEM. THEY GOT LEFT...

THEY'LL FETCH A GOOD PRICE THEN!
COULD BRING ME MILLIONS IF I MAKE THE RIGHT DEAL!

N-NOT THOSE BIO-CHIPS! TRUST ME...
...THEY'RE BAD NEWS!

TO HELL WITH MORALS AND LAWS. WHO CARES WHETHER STRANGERS DIE OR LIVE?!
IT'S ALL ABOUT *YOU!*
IF *YOU* LIKE THEM, THEY'LL LIVE! IF *NOT*...

NO NEED TO PLAY GOODY-GOODY WITH ME. WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER!
YOU'LL GO TO THE WALL FOR YOUR *PALS*...
...AND *KILL* ANYONE WHO *IRRITATES* YOU!


GOOD NEWS... BAD NEWS...
...YOU DON'T GIVE A *CRAP* WHAT THIS INFO WOULD DO TO THE WORLD, DO YOU?!

I... I CAN'T DENY IT...!
NGHH ...!

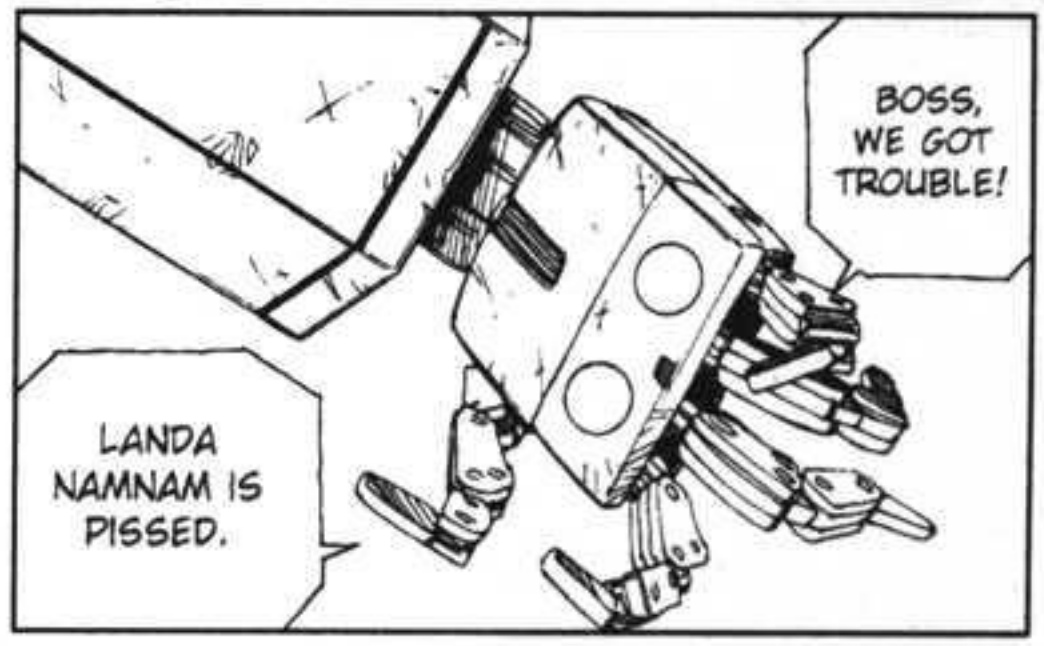
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

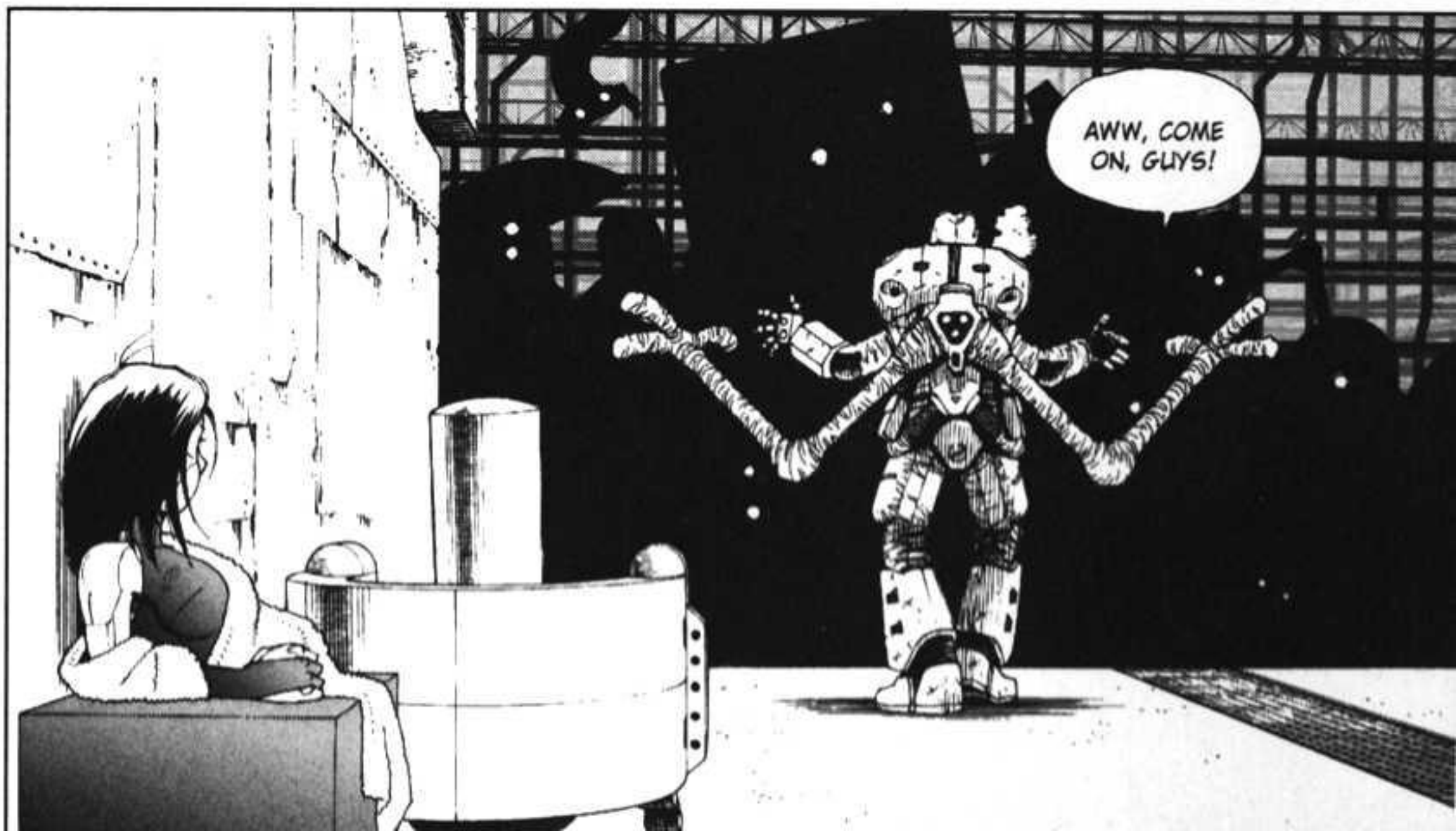
Snap
ONE *NOW.*
THE *OTHER* IF YOU SUCCEED.

YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I JUST WANT LOU ALIVE AGAIN.

IT'S A DEAL!

klsp

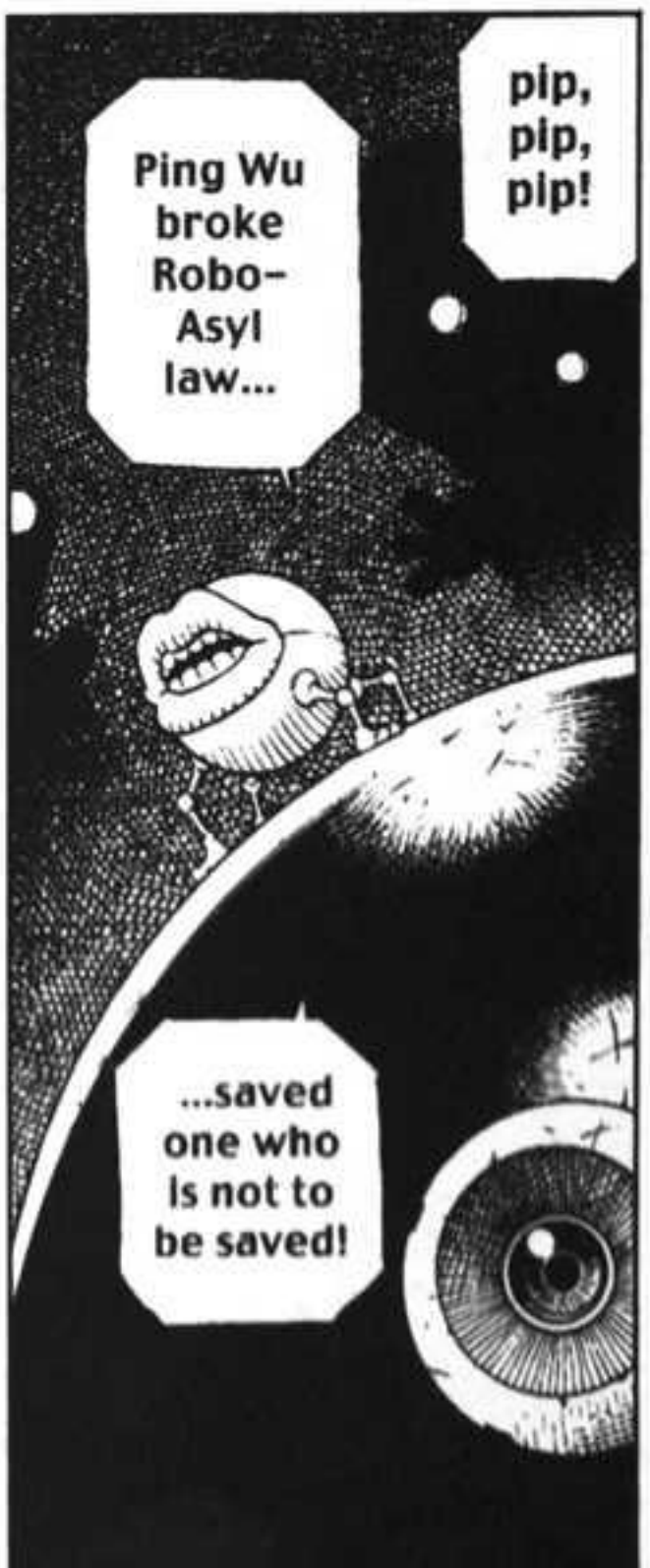




HEY, S'UP, YO?

peep, eep!

oop, doop!



YEEK! MASTER!

gwmp

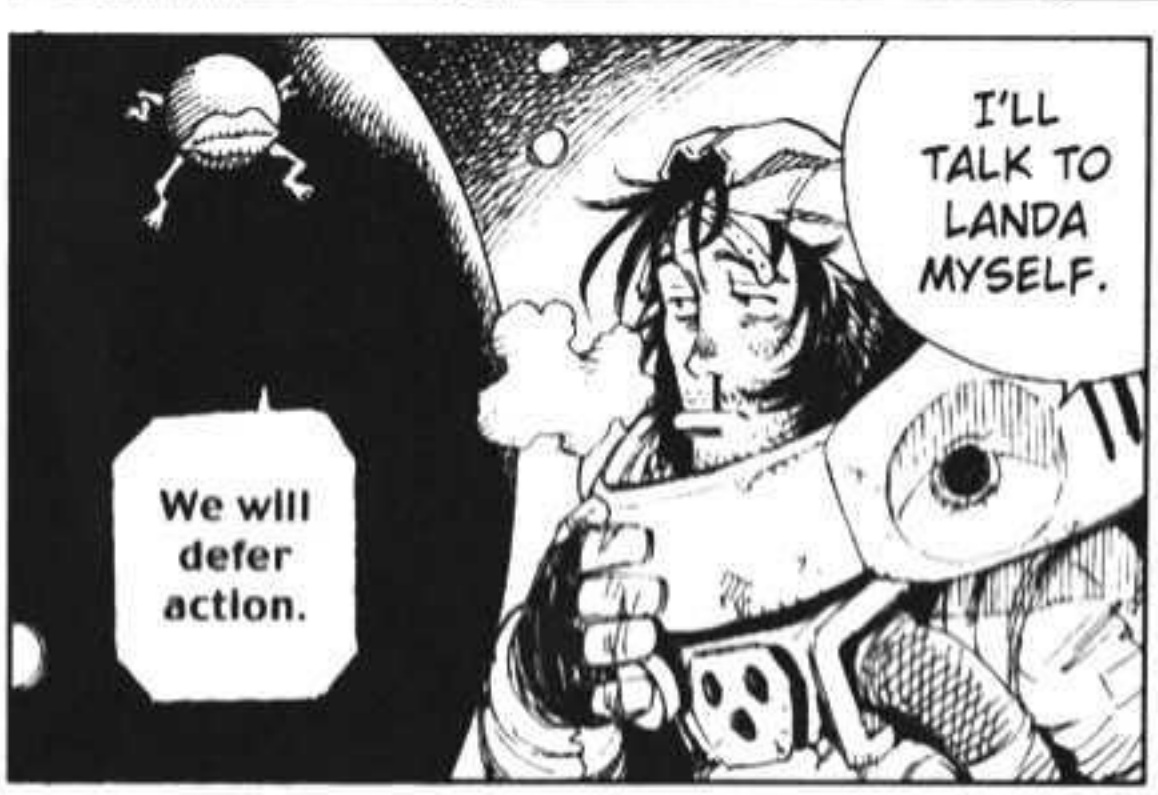
...YOU BLOCKHEADED ROBOT!

GET YOUR GRUBBY HANDS OFFA ME...

I DON'T NEED A WHOLE BODY TO DEAL WITH YOU!
krsh
Borp wurp!
zreeee
ch-chk
I'LL TAKE 'IM ON!
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS LANDA NAMNAM?!

WHOAAA!

TIME OUT! CALM DOWN, ALL OF YOU!



NO TWO ARE ALIKE!

THEY'RE DESCENDED FROM BOTS WHO WORKED THE BIG RECON JOB 190 YEARS AGO...

THAT'S WHAT MAKES 'EM SO CUTE.

I DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE SO ATTACHED TO THEM!

urk

BUT A ROBOT IS *ONLY* A MACHINE ...

twee twa beep.

toot woot!

bwee baa boop!

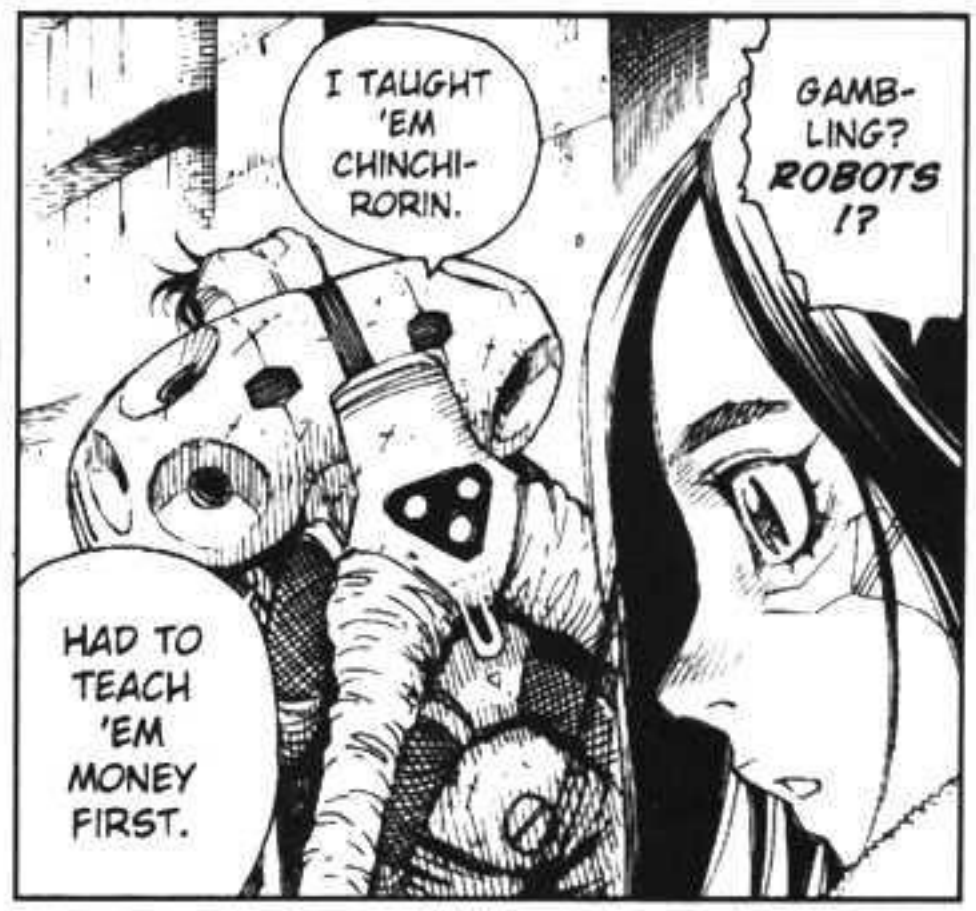
WHAT ARE THEY DOING!?

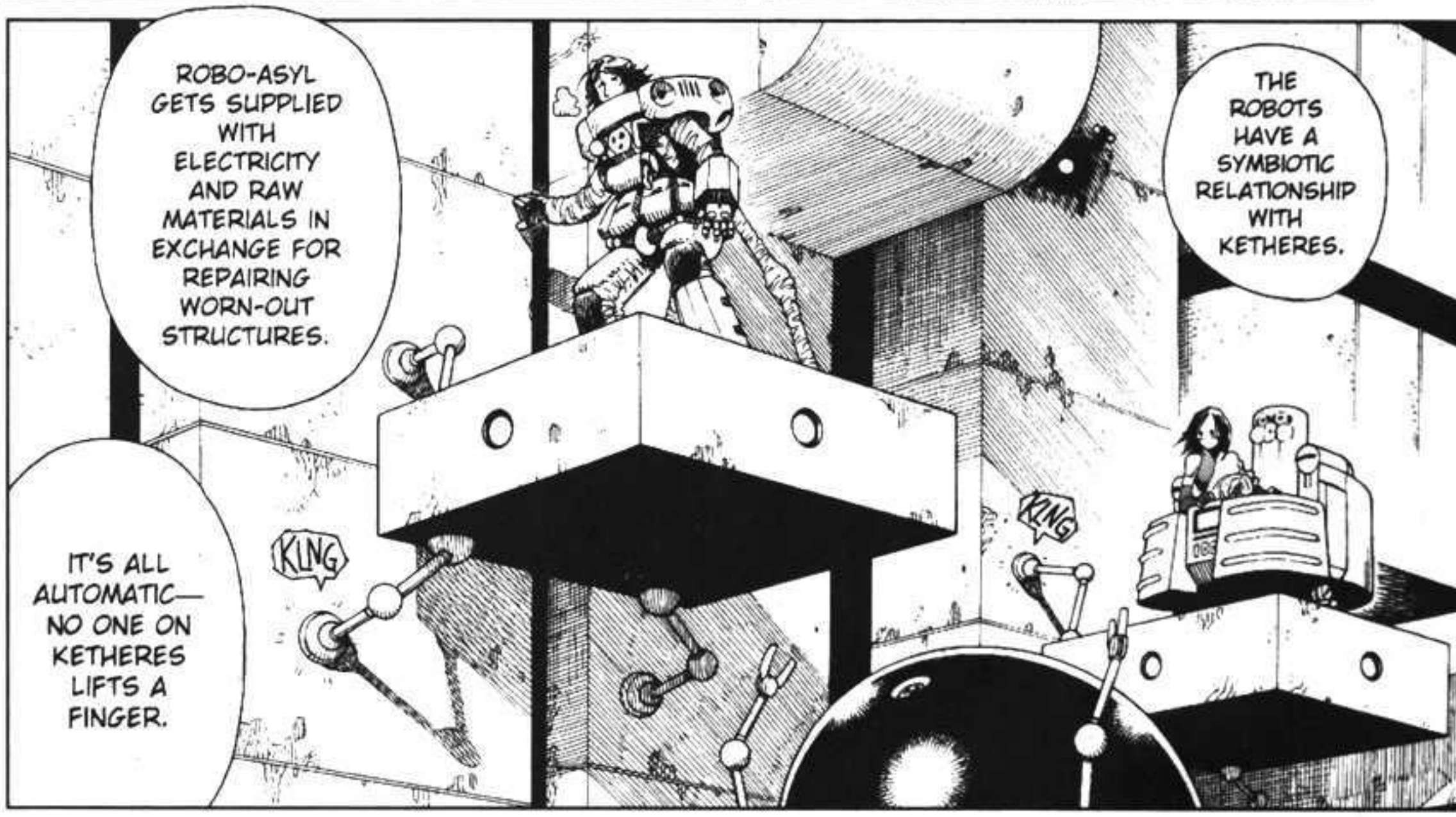
LOOKS LIKE A DICE GAME.

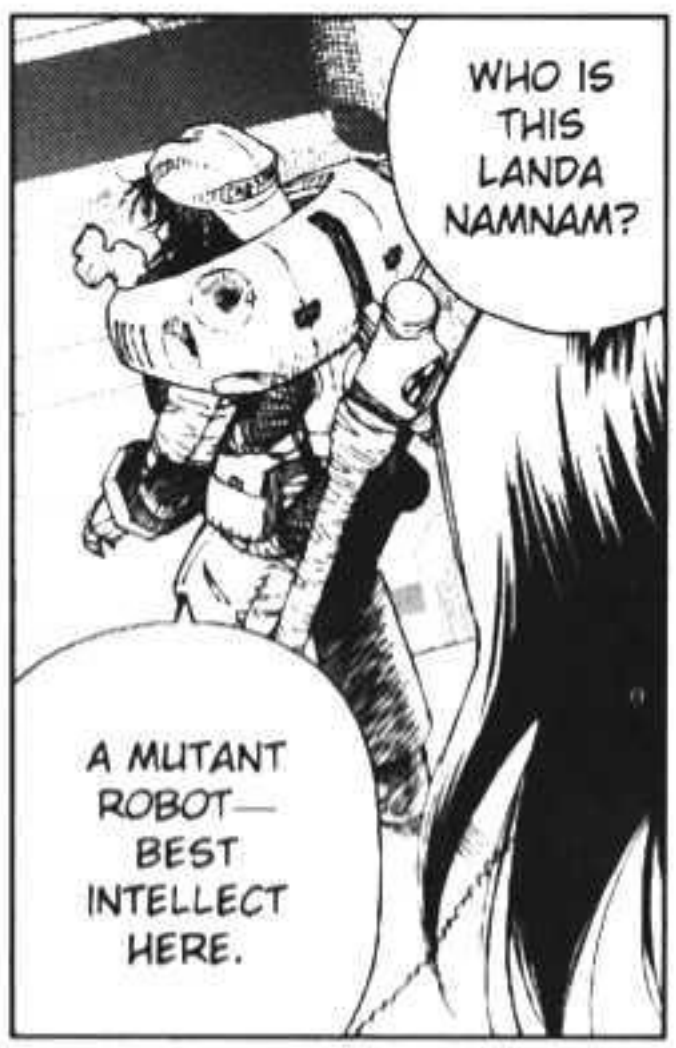
Inside the outer wall...

YOU GROW ATTACHED TO ROBOTS AFTER LIVING WITH 'EM FOR A CENTURY.

...
...
ha ha ha
THEY'VE SMARTENED UP A LOT—WON'T FALL FOR THE OLD TRICKS ANYMORE.
NOW THEY EVEN INVENT *NEW* WAYS TO CHEAT!


I TAUGHT 'EM CHINCHI-RORIN.
GAMB-LING? *ROBOTS* !?
HAD TO TEACH 'EM MONEY FIRST.


ROBO-ASYL GETS SUPPLIED WITH ELECTRICITY AND RAW MATERIALS IN EXCHANGE FOR REPAIRING WORN-OUT STRUCTURES.
THE ROBOTS HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH KETHERES.
KLNG
KLNG
IT'S ALL AUTOMATIC— NO ONE ON KETHERES LIFTS A FINGER.


WHO IS THIS LANDA NAMNAM?
A MUTANT ROBOT— BEST INTELLECT HERE.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND...
...BUT LANDA'S AFRAID THEY'LL FIND OUT ABOUT US.

SORT OF LIKE TIPHARES AND THE SCRAP-YARD...

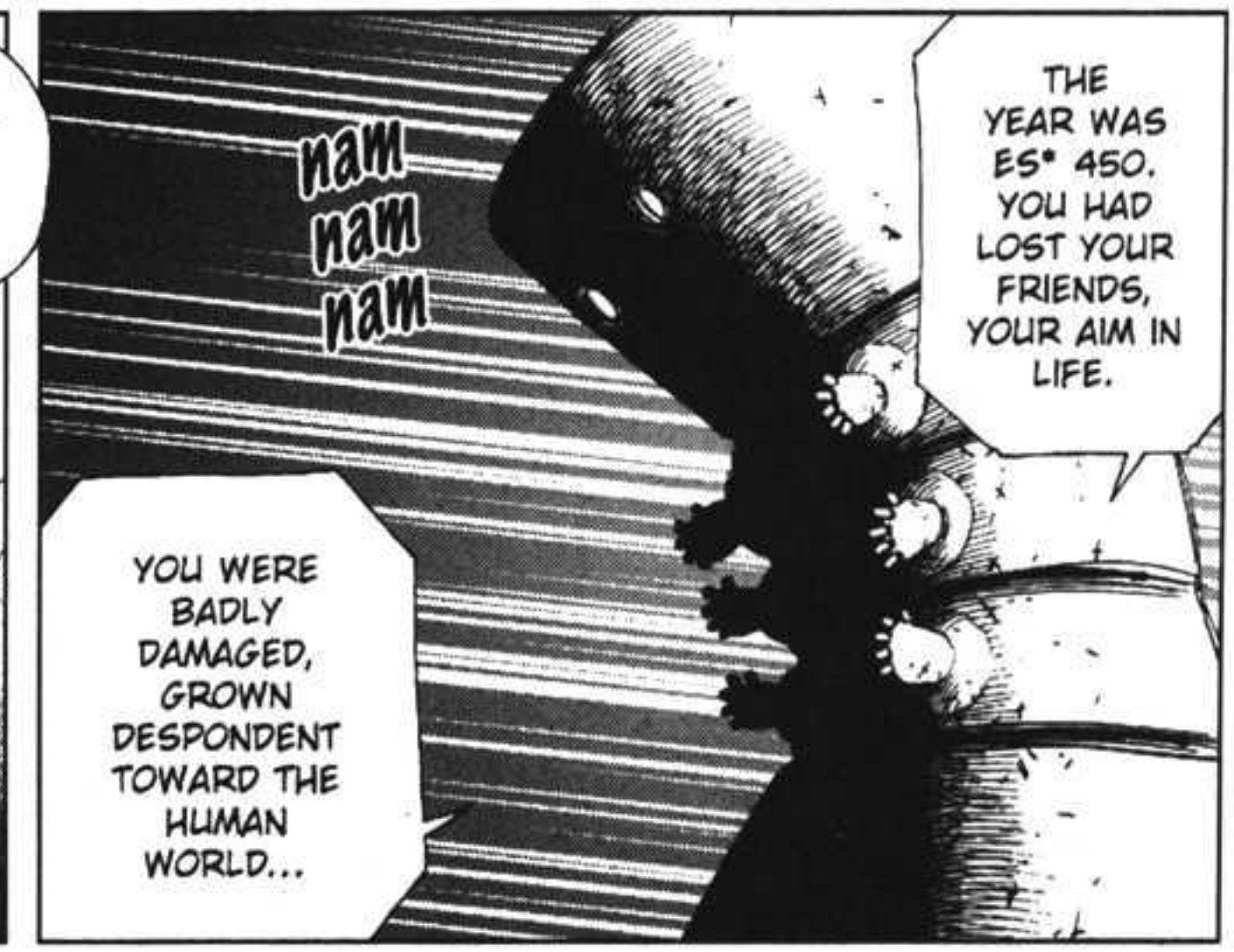
HE'S THE KING OF THE LAND OF ROBOTS...

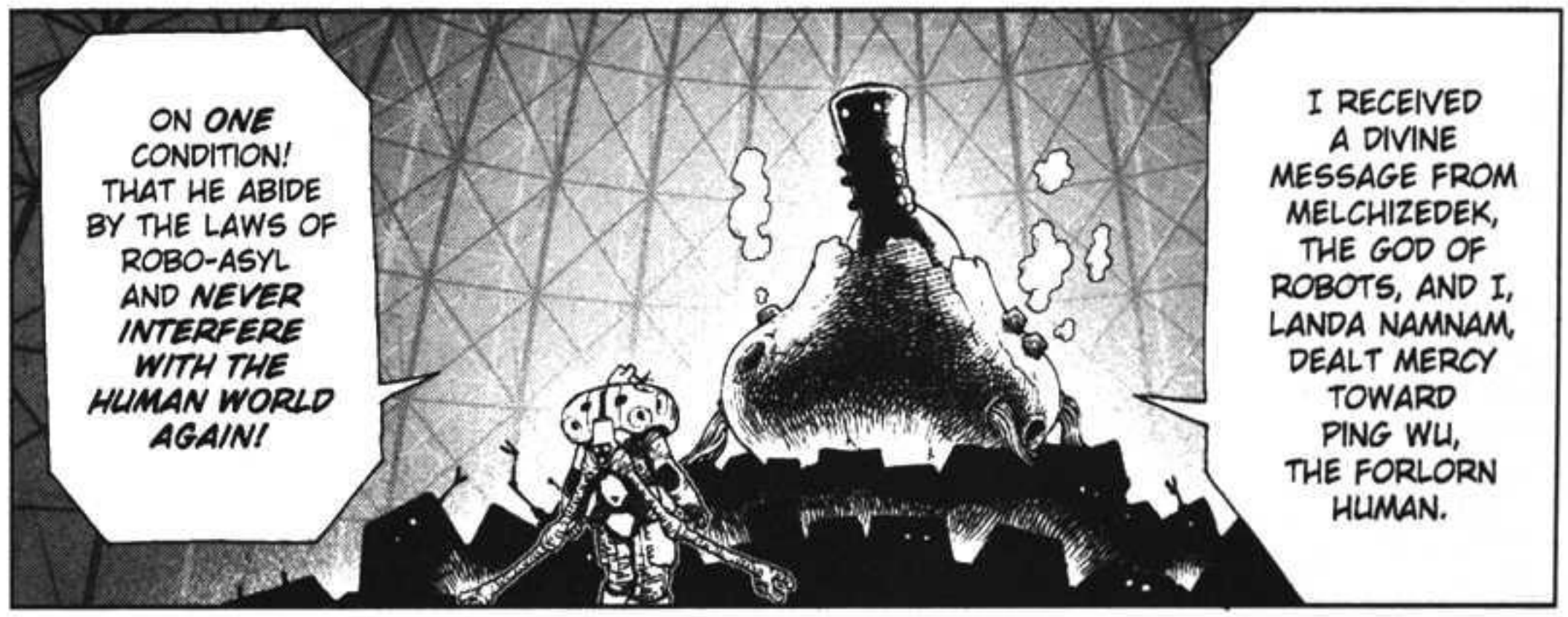
...AND...

...HOW IT WAS WHEN YOU *FIRST* ARRIVED.

nam nam nam

PING WU, TRY TO RECALL...

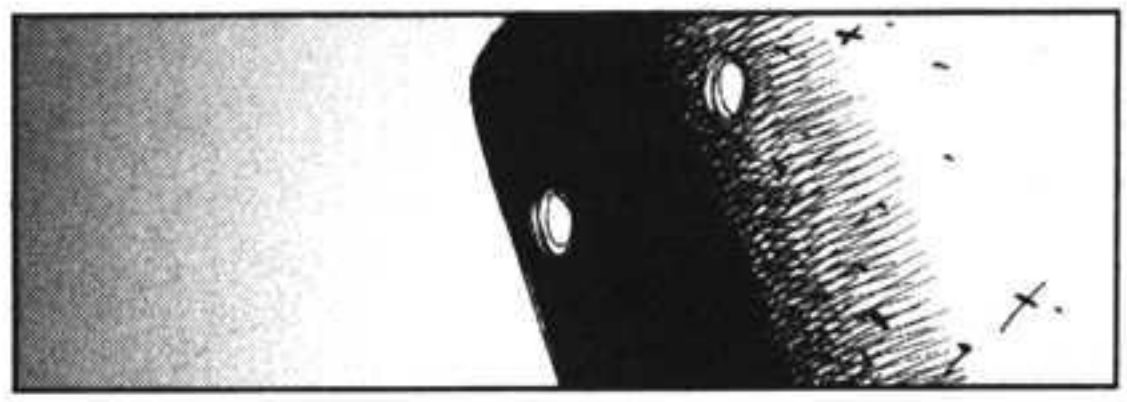




*ES (Era Sputnik): Standard dating system used in space. The year the first artificial satellite Sputnik was launched into space (1957) marks the first year. Based on the period of Earth's revolution around the sun.

DON'T REWRITE HISTORY TO SUIT YOU!

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.



I WAS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOU HUMAN LANGUAGE!

ALLOW ME TO REMIND YOU – SINCE IT'S GOTTEN SO HAZY.

GAMBLING! CHEATING! MONEY! FAITH! ALL OF IT!

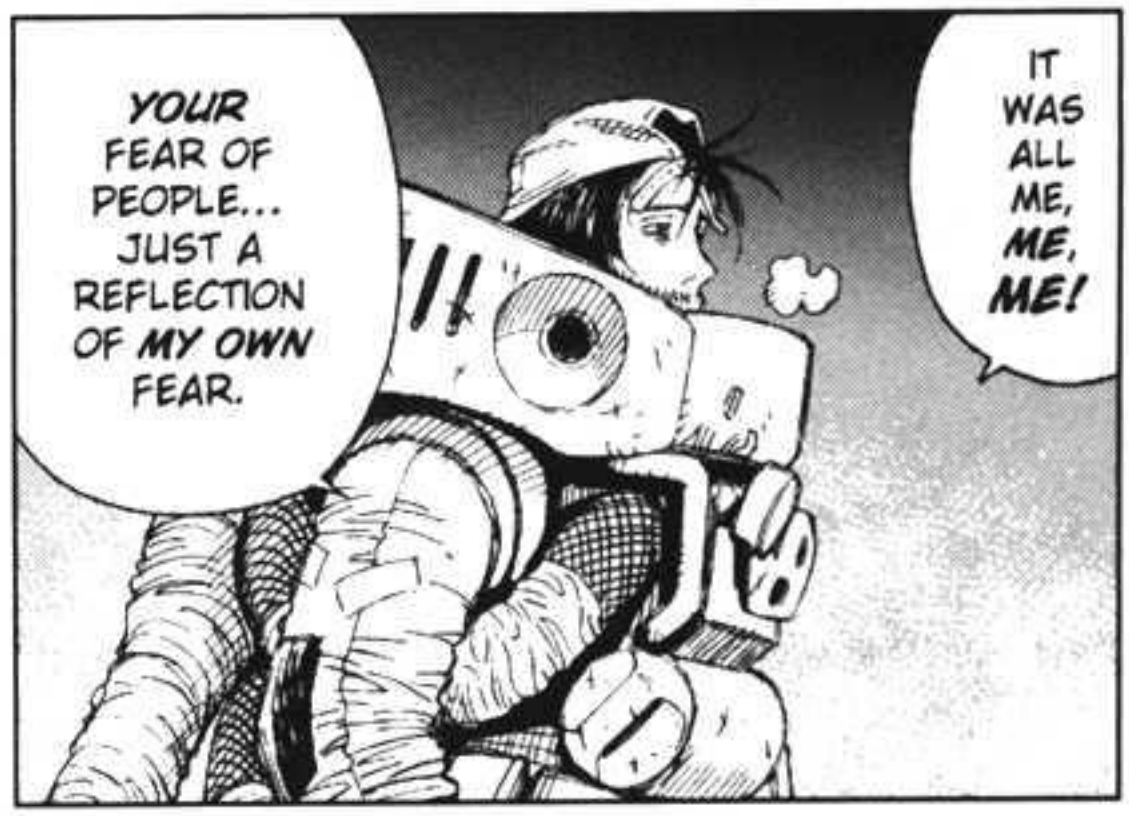
I CAME UP WITH THE NAMES LANDA NAMNAM AND ROBO-ASYL!

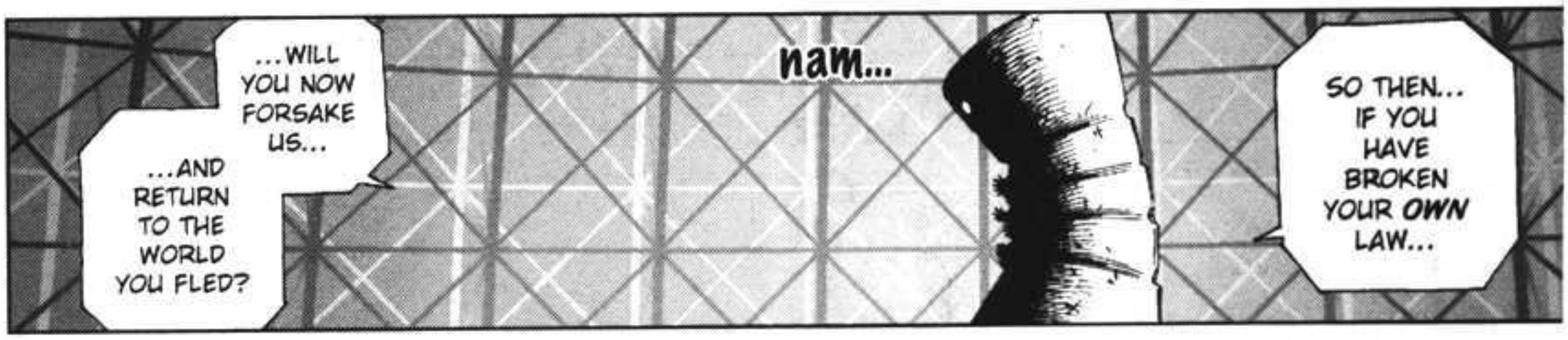
I MADE THE LAWS OF ROBO-ASYL ALL BY MYSELF!

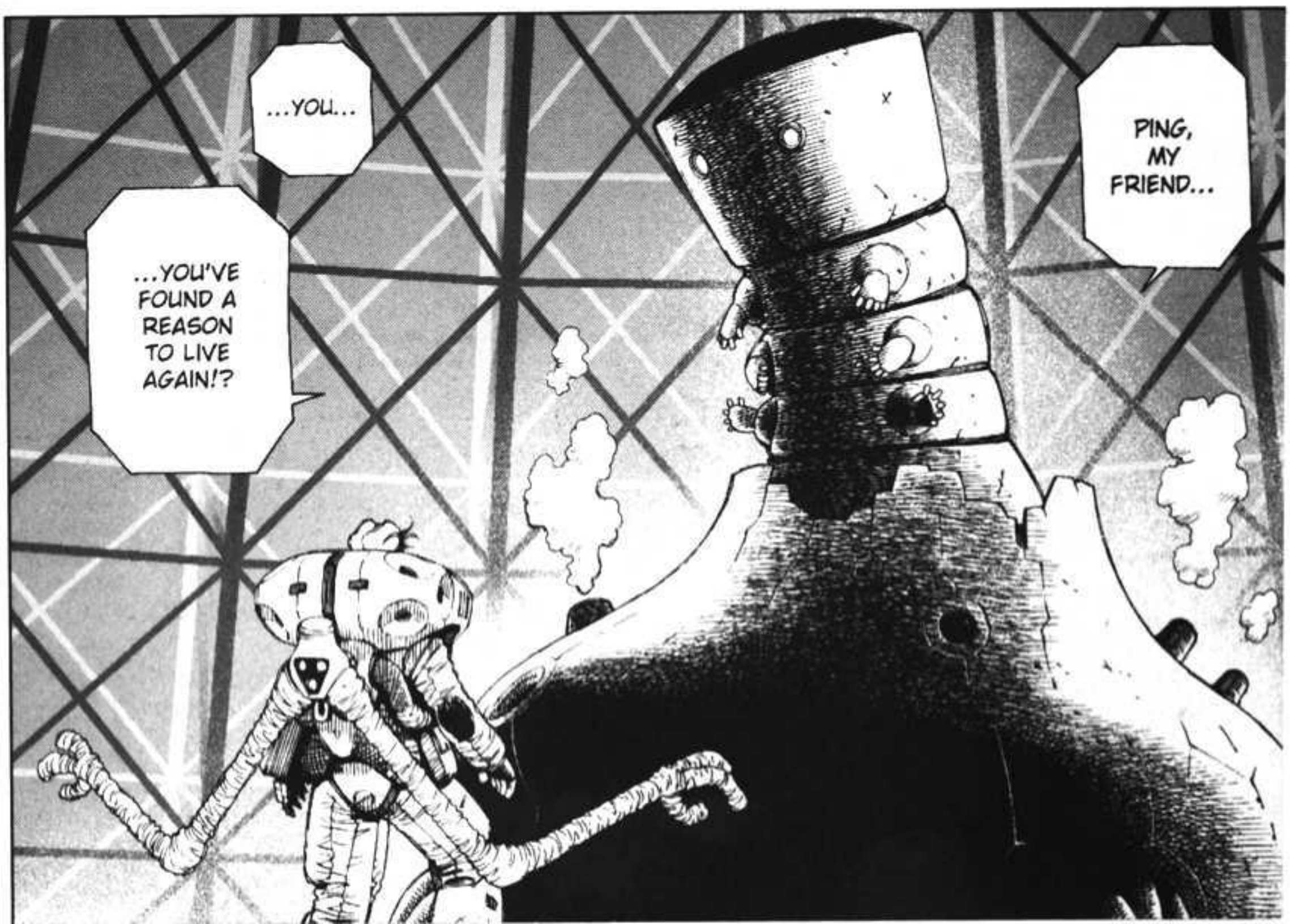
I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID MELCHIZEDEK WAS THE GOD OF ROBOTS!

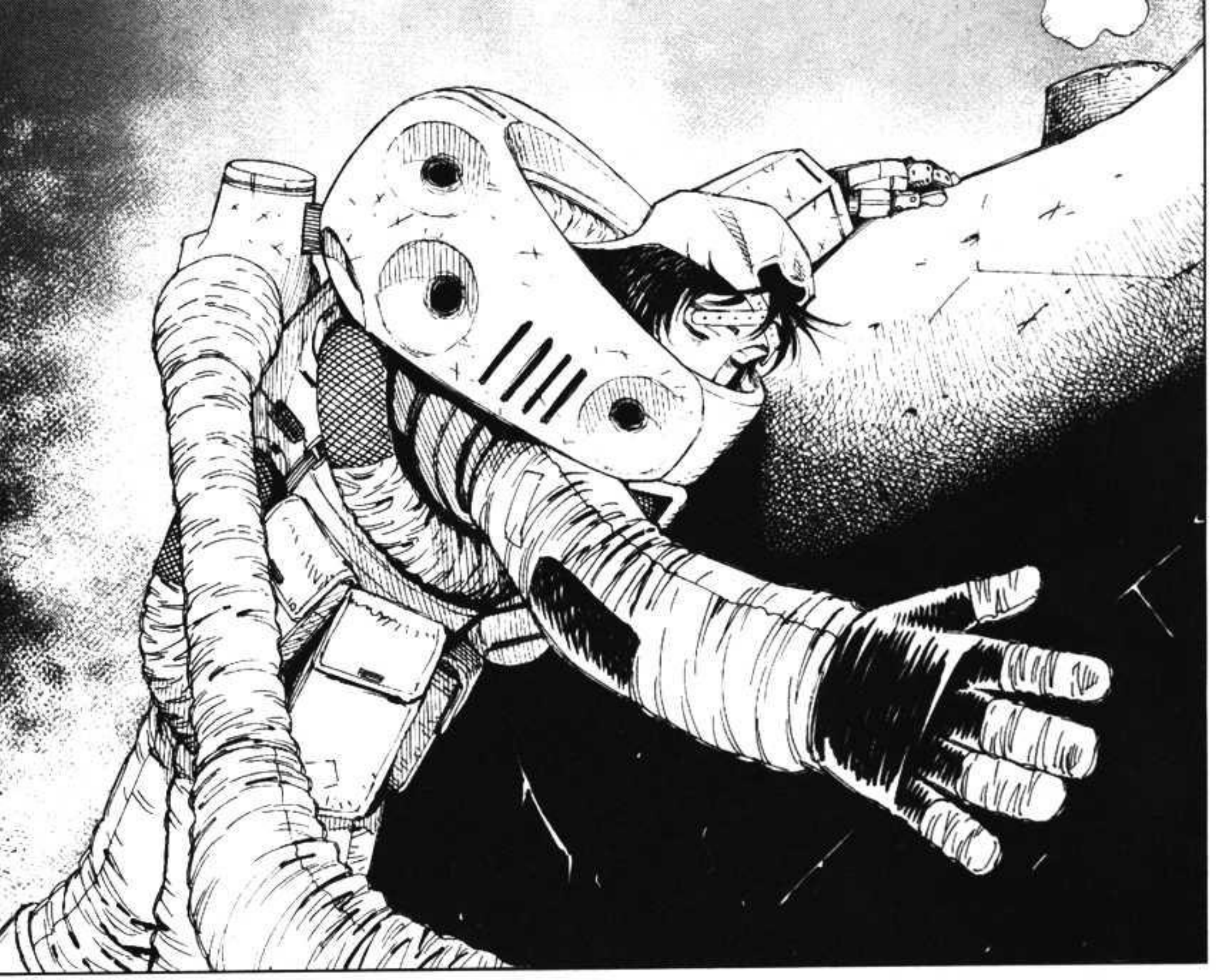
...!

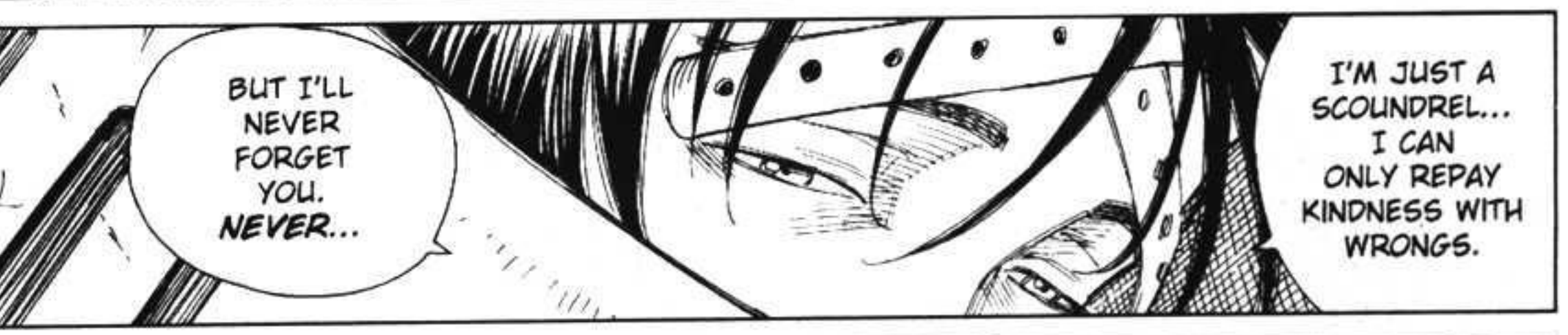
...TO PROTECT ME FROM THE WORLD.
I GUESS I USED ALL OF YOU AS A SHIELD...


YOUR FEAR OF PEOPLE... JUST A REFLECTION OF MY OWN FEAR.
IT WAS ALL ME, ME, ME!


...WILL YOU NOW FORSAKE US...
...AND RETURN TO THE WORLD YOU FLED?
nam...
SO THEN... IF YOU HAVE BROKEN YOUR OWN LAW...


...YOU...
...YOU'VE FOUND A REASON TO LIVE AGAIN!?
PING, MY FRIEND...

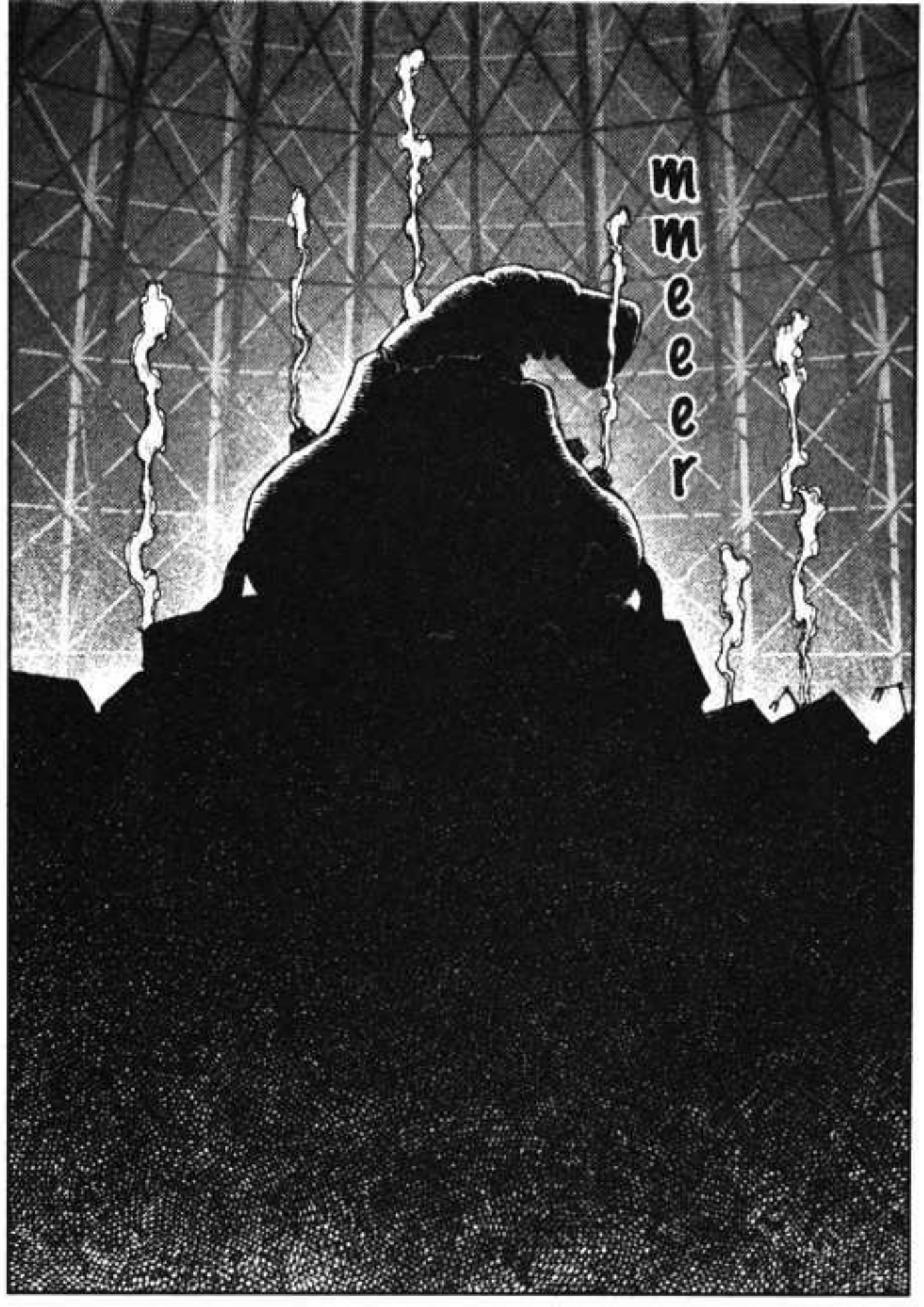



BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU. NEVER...
I'M JUST A SCOUNDREL... I CAN ONLY REPAY KINDNESS WITH WRONGS.

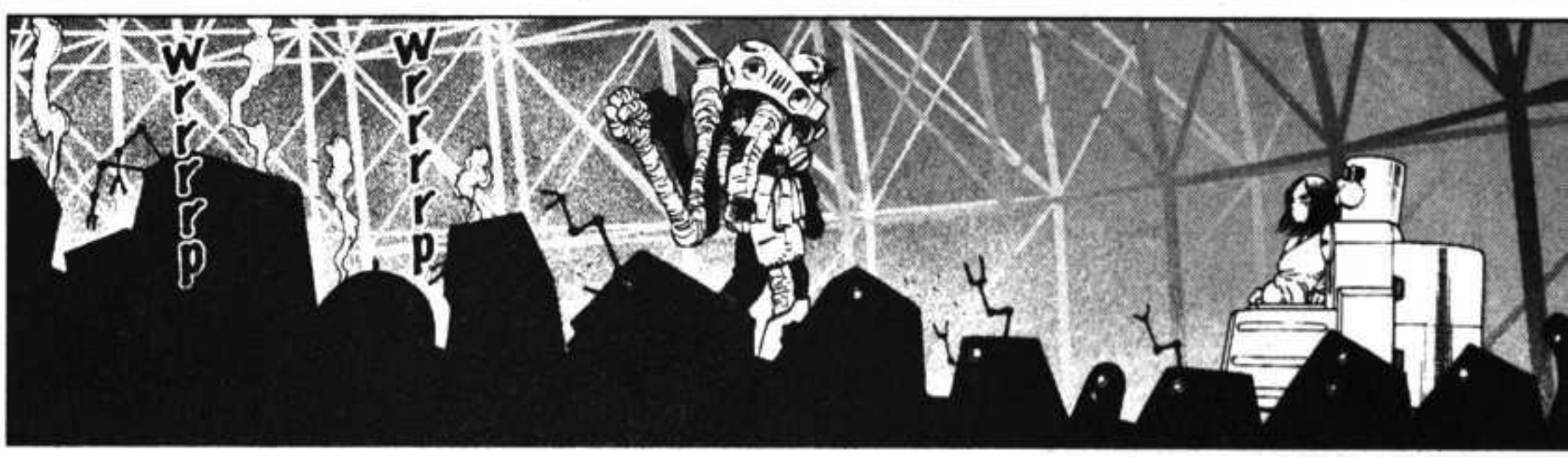
... ...

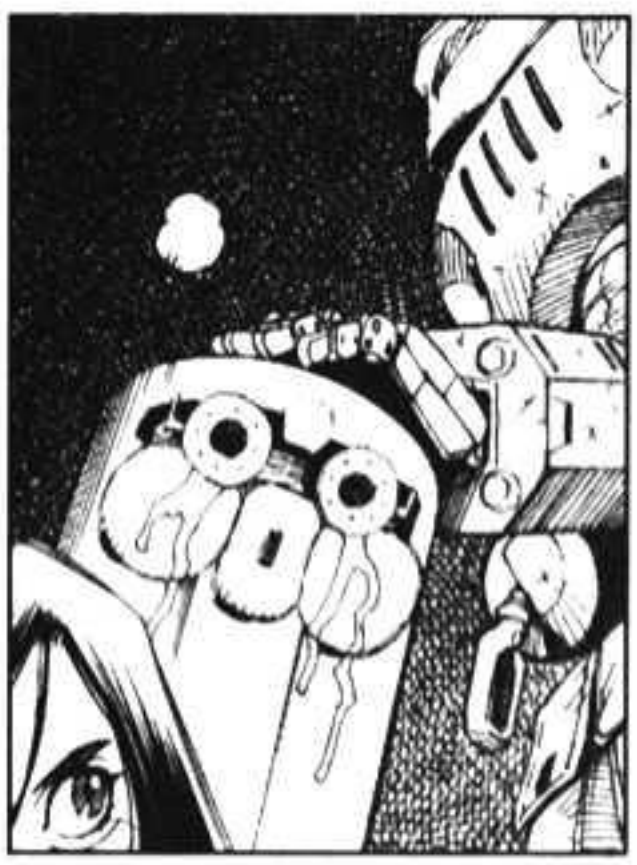
THANK YOU... FOR EVERY-THING.

PING, MY FRIEND ...
...WILL YOU NO LONGER TEACH US THE NAMES OF THE STARS?


mmeeer

I, LANDA NAMNAM, SHALL TURN MYSELF OFF FOR 24 HOURS.
GO WHERE YOU WILL IN THE MEANTIME!


wrrrrp
wrrrrp



YOU'RE SUCH A JERK...!

THE KING OF THE LAND OF ROBOTS, AND...

LANDA NAMNAM...

...MY FRIEND...

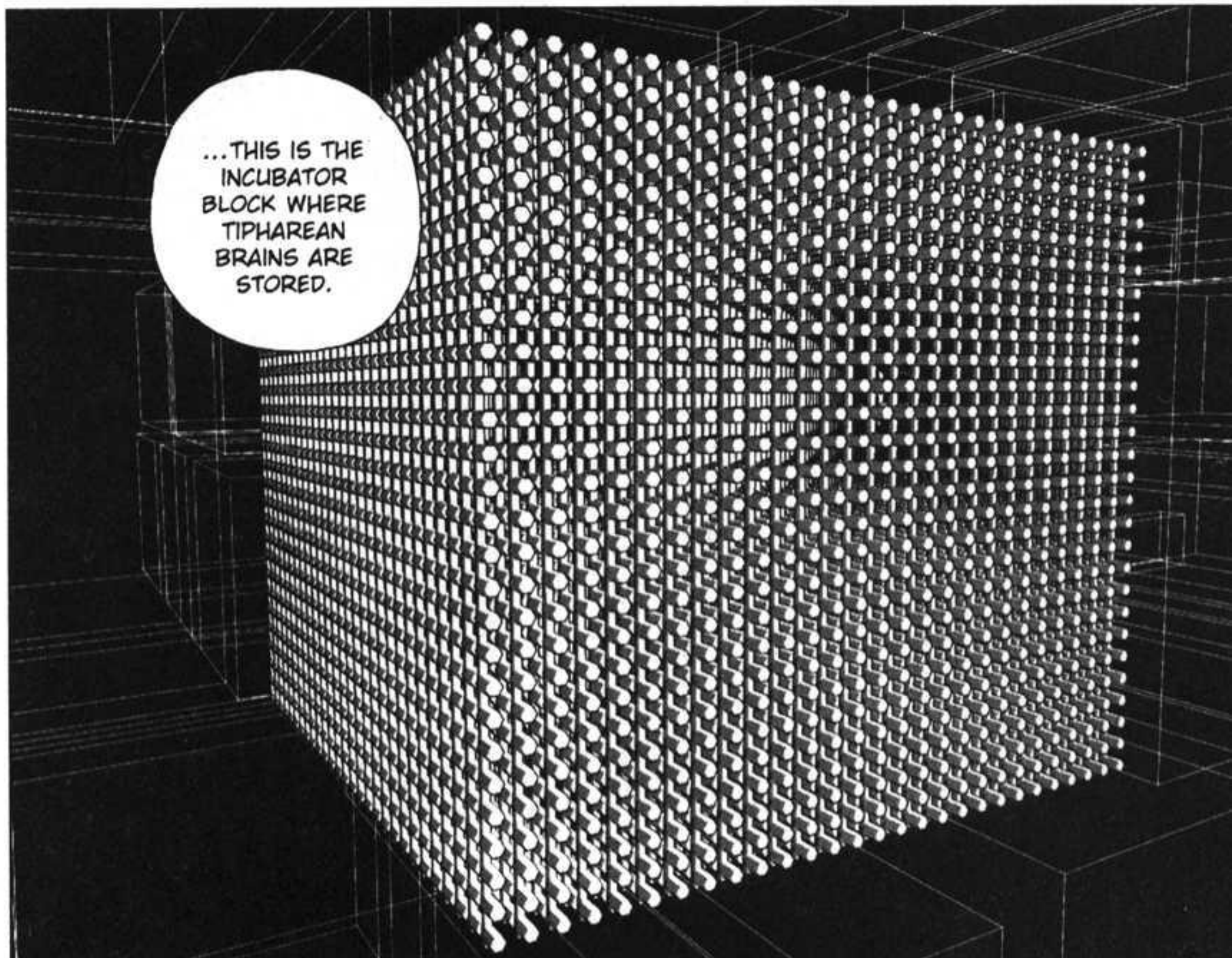
OF THAT, I'M CERTAIN.

PHASE 15

I'm Sure We'll Meet Again

LOOK!

YOUR FRIEND MUST BE IN HERE SOMEWHERE...


...THIS IS THE INCUBATOR BLOCK WHERE TIPHAREAN BRAINS ARE STORED.

LOU...

THAT'S FUNNY?
HA, HA, HA!

...WHY WOULD THEY DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING?!

B-BUT...
DO YOU HAFTA CRY EVERY TIME?

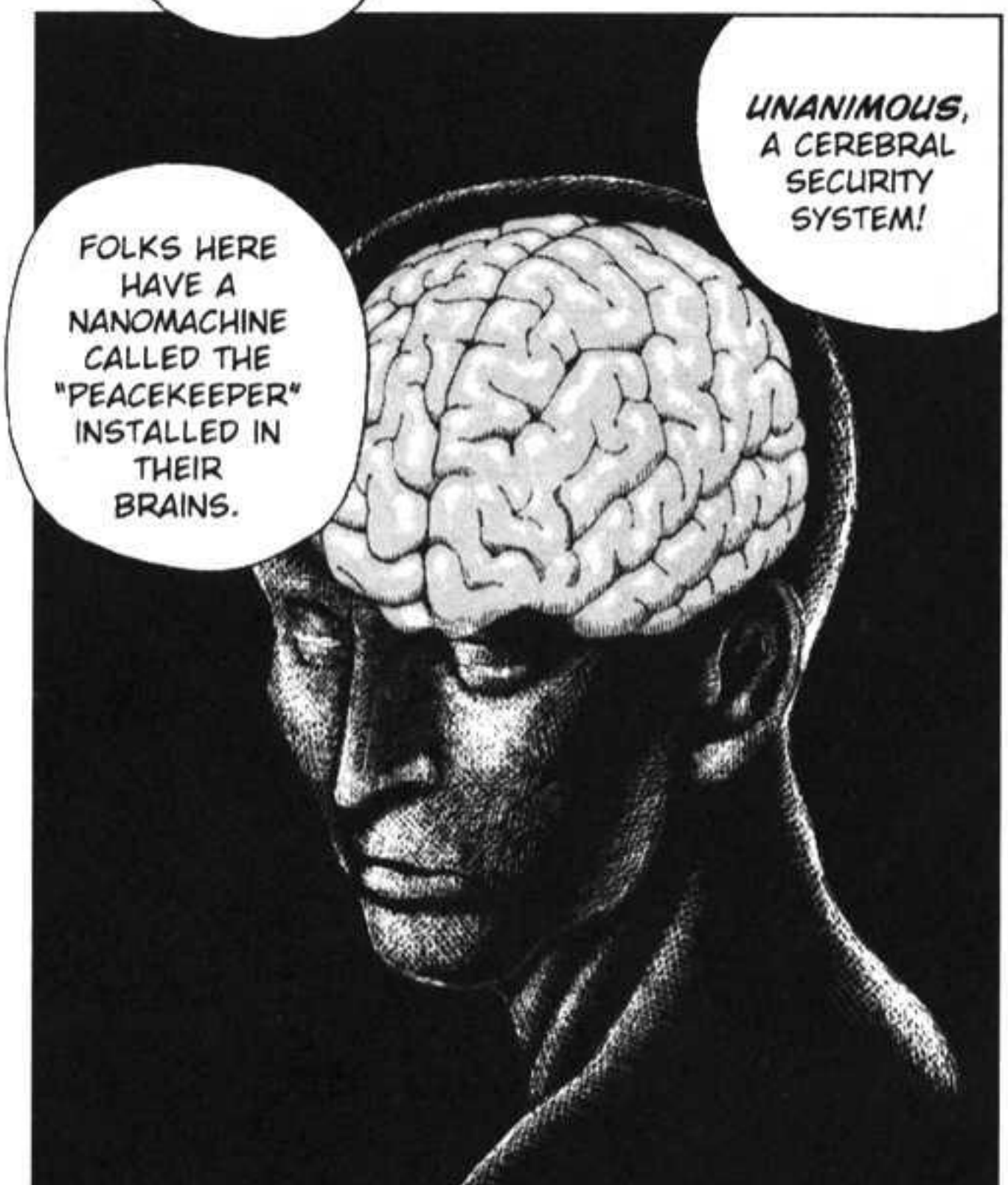
THEY COULD?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
RIGHT AND WRONG— IT'S ALL IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, ISN'T IT? THOSE BRAINS COULD BE THE HAPPIEST ONES IN THE WORLD, FOR ALL YOU KNOW!

TELL ME!

YOU UP FOR IT?
THAT'S A LONG, LONG STORY.

EVEN THE ROBOTS OF ROBO-ASYL GET INTO FIGHTS AND DECEIVE EACH OTHER.

CRIME, SUICIDE, ADULTERY— SEEMS LIKE HUMAN NATURE, RIGHT?
BUT NOT IN KETHERES... NOT A *SINGLE* QUARREL IN A CENTURY! AND HOW?


UNANIMOUS, A CEREBRAL SECURITY SYSTEM!
FOLKS HERE HAVE A NANOMACHINE CALLED THE "PEACEKEEPER" INSTALLED IN THEIR BRAINS.

THE INCUBATOR WAS CREATED TO AUGMENT A PUBLIC ORDER SYSTEM CALLED "UNANIMOUS."

BUT ITS *REAL* FUNCTION IS TO ENFORCE LAWS ON THE SYNAPTIC LEVEL.

OFFICIALLY, IT'S A HANDY PERSONAL DATALINK— LETS YOU ACCESS MELCHIZEDEK ON THE FLY FOR ANY INFO YOU MIGHT WANT.

IT'S SORT OF LIKE HAVING AN UN-BRIBABLE COP INSIDE YOUR HEAD SUPERVISING YOU FULL-TIME.

THE PEACEKEEPER SPIES ON ALL SYNAPTIC ACTIVITY. CRIMINAL INTENT MERITS A SHOCK TO THE BRAIN'S PAIN CENTER, GOOD BEHAVIOR A GENTLE JOLT TO THE PLEASURE CENTER.

UNEXPECTED CRIMES AND SUICIDES BEGAN TO ERUPT. THAT'S WHEN A SCIENTIST FROM TIPHARES PROPOSED A NOVEL SOLUTION TO THE BACK-GROUND NOISE PROBLEM...

SURE, THE ***BRAIN*** CAN BE CONTROLLED. BUT EACH CELL IN THE BODY GIVES OFF A SLIGHT ***HUM***...

...WHICH, TOGETHER, FORMS THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS. TRY TO TAME ***THAT*** MONSTER!

...A VAST INNER FANTASY CALLED THE ***ARGO NAVIS!***

...THE ***INCUBATOR!*** IT RECYCLED TIPHAREAN BRAINS PREVIOUSLY TOSSED AS WASTE BYPRODUCTS AND CONNECTED THEM INTO A COLLECTIVE DREAM WORLD...

TIPHARES DUMPS ITS ***GARBAGE***... KETHERES DUMPS ITS ***DREAMS.***

PEACEKEEPER FUNCTIONALITY IS SUSPENDED DURING SLEEP SO KETHERIANS CAN ACCESS THE ARGO NAVIS.

DOUBT THEY EVEN ***KNOW*** THEY'RE DISEM-BODIED.

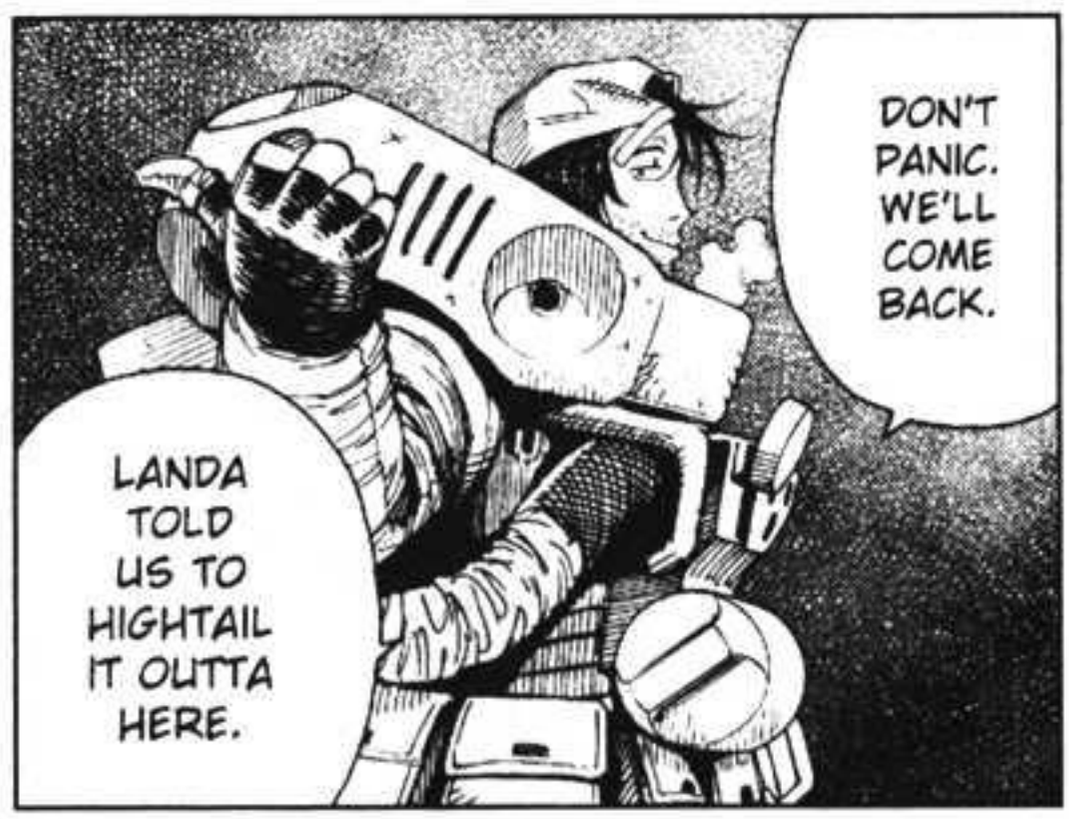
LOU! SO YOU'RE... ***DREAM-ING***...

I WANT TO KILL *EVERYONE* WHO DID THIS TO LOU!

GRR...

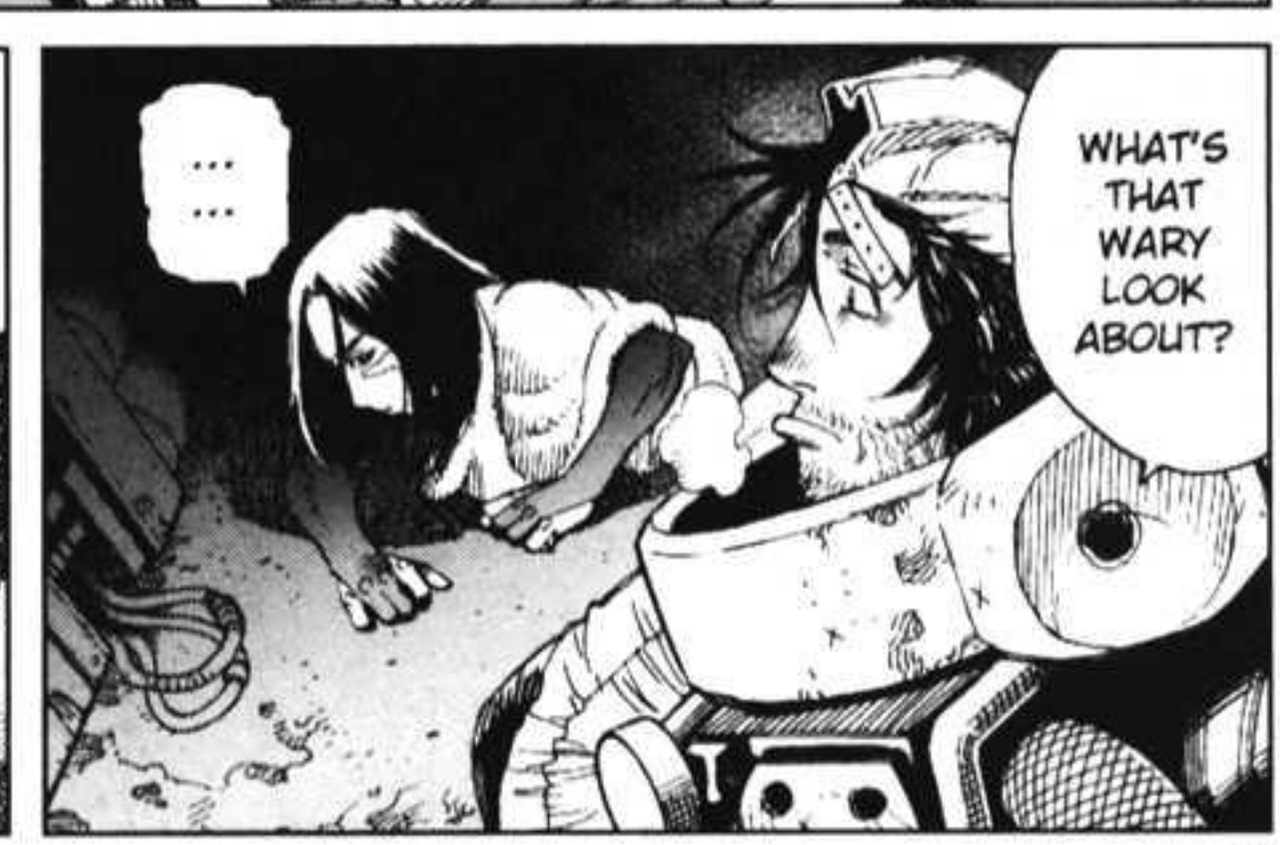
HOLD ON!
THAT WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL!

FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE FROM KETHERES!
WHAT ?!

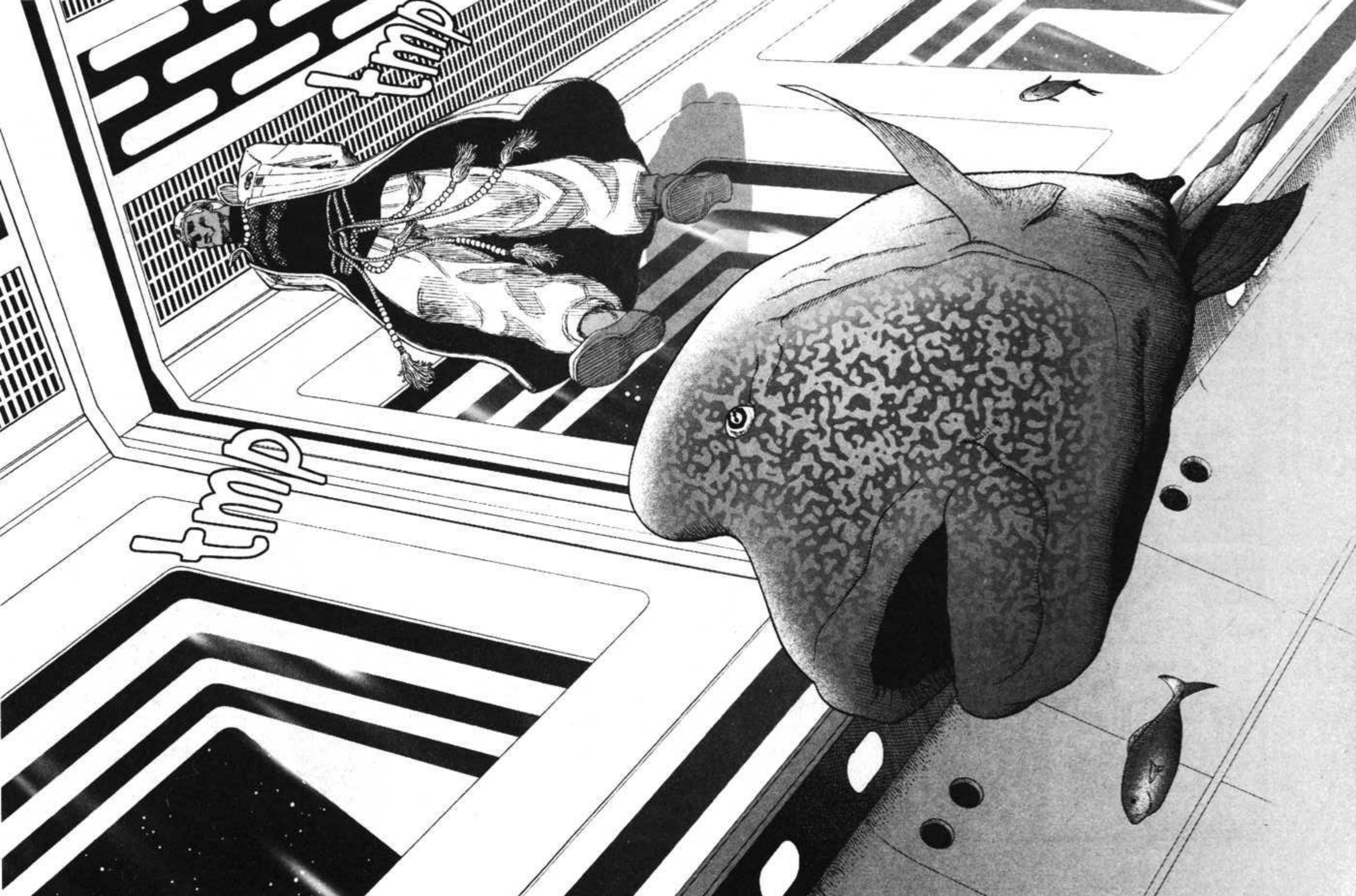

DON'T PANIC. WE'LL COME BACK.
LANDA TOLD US TO HIGHTAIL IT OUTTA HERE.

I DON'T TRUST THIS GUY. WHAT IF HE GOES BACK ON HIS WORD AND RUNS OFF AFTER WE LEAVE KETHERES?!
RIGHT... LANDA, THE *LAST* PAL YOU BETRAYED!

DON'T TRUST ME?
FINE. I'LL LET YA IN ON PART OF MY PLAN.

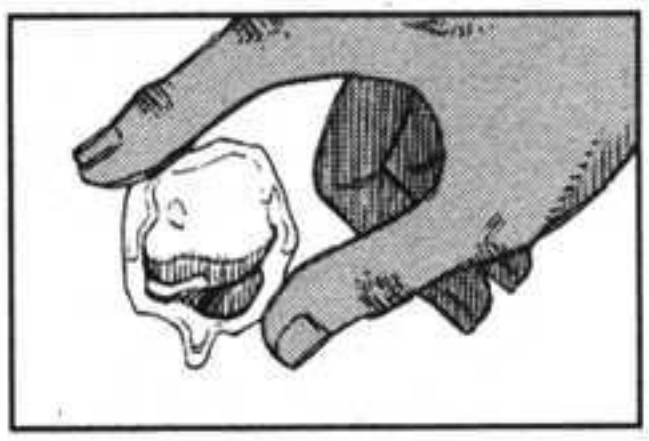

... ...
WHAT'S THAT WARY LOOK ABOUT?

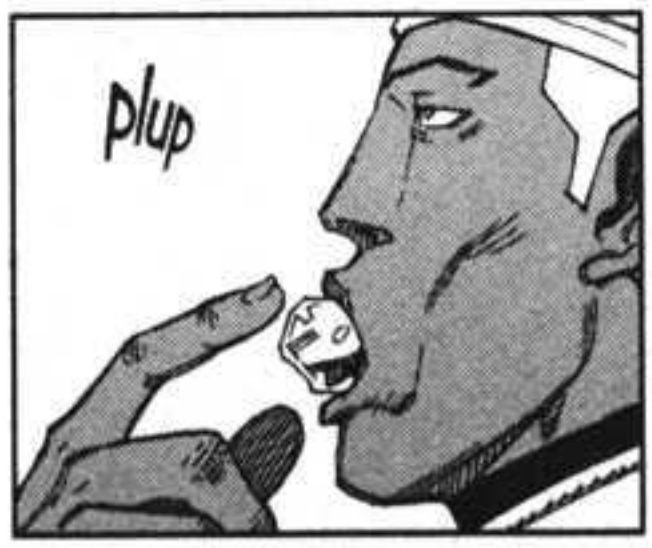
*Z.O.T. Tournament: Short for "Zenith of Things," it began as an experiment to see how robots would fare against trained soldiers.


tmp
tmp

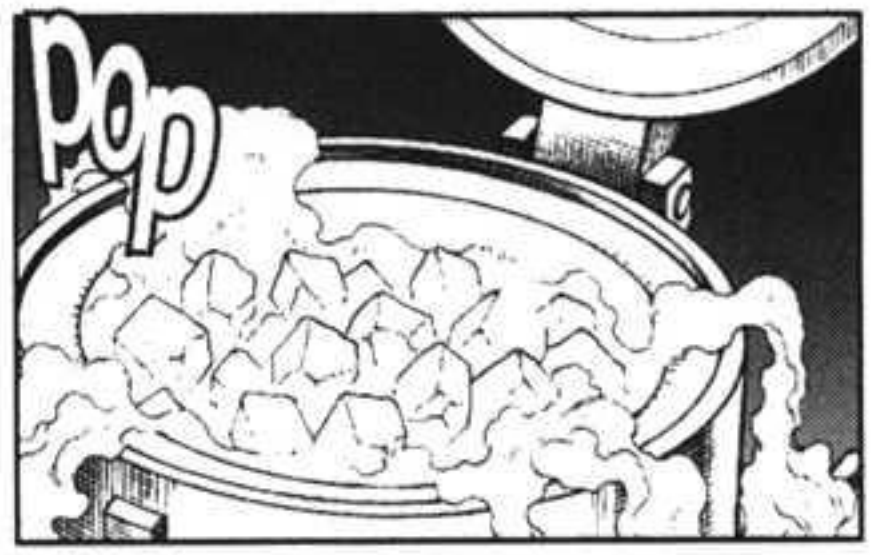
MM.
WE'VE TESTED IT FOR SAFETY, SIR.

THIS GENTLE-MAN HAS A GIFT FOR YOU.




plup

plipsh
krik
krek

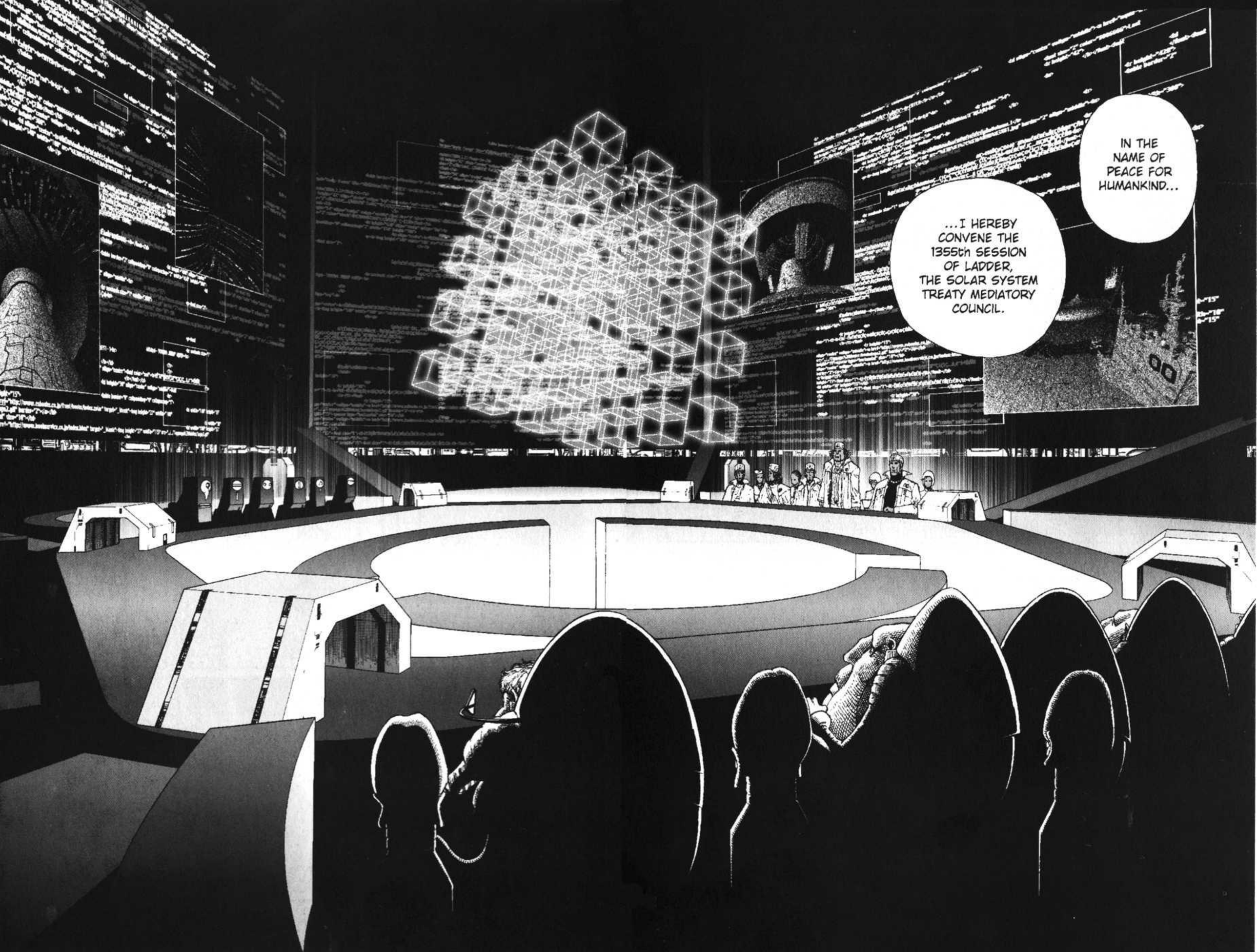

Pop

CHOICE ICE CUBES FROM SATURN'S RINGS.

GOOD!
MM!
!

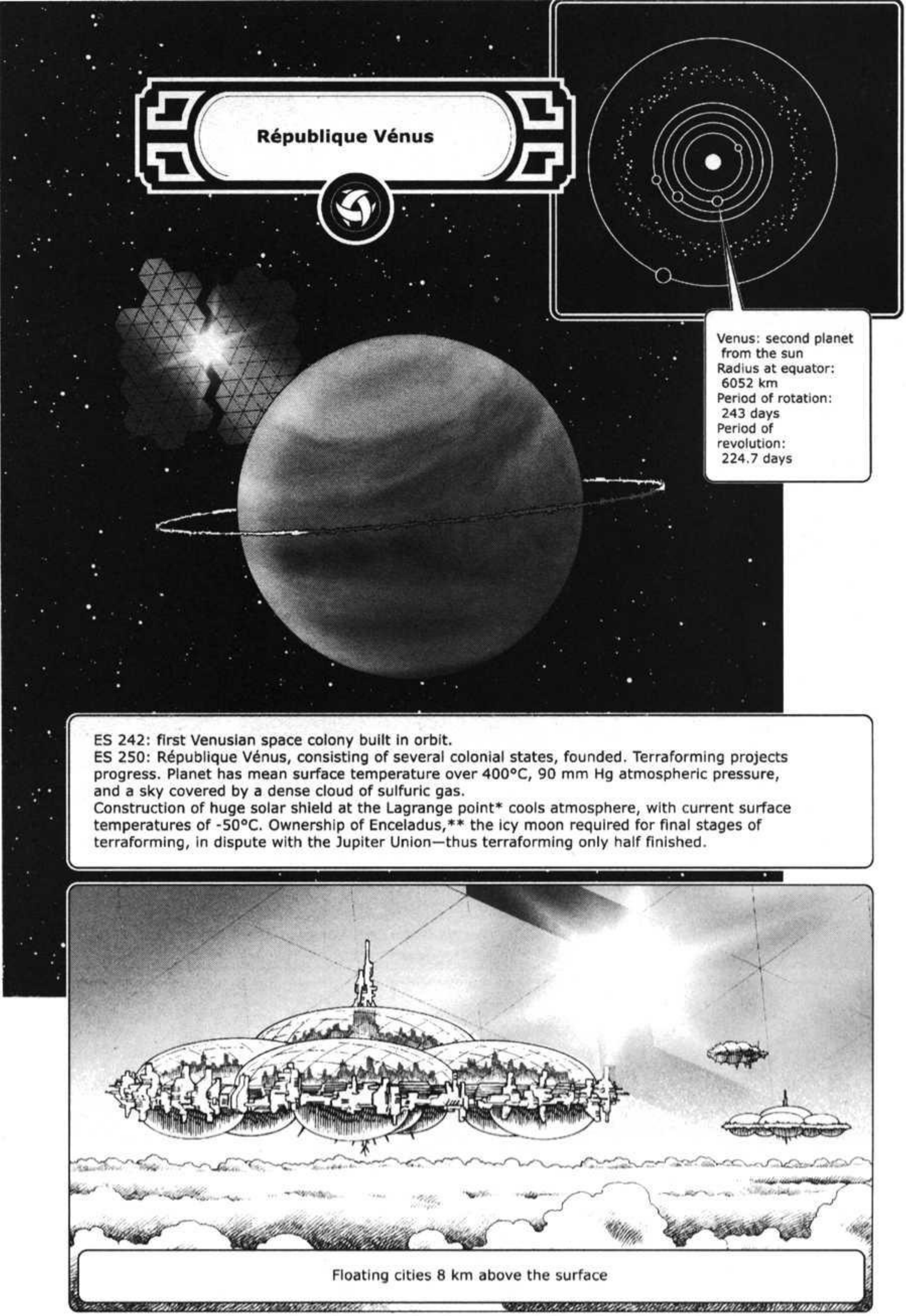
THEN THE MATTER WE DIS-CUSSED...
THANK YOU, I ACCEPT.

SKRNCH
KRAK
CRNCH


IN THE NAME OF PEACE FOR HUMANKIND...
...I HEREBY CONVENE THE 1355th SESSION OF LADDER, THE SOLAR SYSTEM TREATY MEDIATORY COUNCIL.

*J. Swift (1667~1745): British satirist. From "A Modest Proposal." His works include **Gulliver's Travels**.
**Meat hominid: Homo esculentus

République Vénus



ES 242: first Venusian space colony built in orbit.
ES 250: République Vénus, consisting of several colonial states, founded. Terraforming projects progress. Planet has mean surface temperature over 400°C, 90 mm Hg atmospheric pressure, and a sky covered by a dense cloud of sulfuric gas.
Construction of huge solar shield at the Lagrange point* cools atmosphere, with current surface temperatures of -50°C. Ownership of Enceladus,** the icy moon required for final stages of terraforming, in dispute with the Jupiter Union—thus terraforming only half finished.

Lagrange points: points in the vicinity of two orbiting masses where their gravitational pulls cancel each other out, thus stabilizing the orbit of a third mass. Theorem proven by the French mathematician Lagrange (1736~1813).
***Enceladus: Saturn's satellite II. Radius at equator: 251 km. Discovered in 1789 by Herschel, and named after a giant of Greek mythology.*

NO POISON, RADIATION, NANOMACHINES, OR HARMFUL PROTEINS DETECTED.

IT IS DEEMED SAFE.

SZZZZ

heh heh

APOLOGIES! I FORGOT JOVIANS HAVE NO TONGUES!

NEXT TIME, I SHALL PUT MOTOR OIL ON THE MENU.

IT IS AN OUT-RAGE!

WE OBJECT TO THAT REMARK!

...DESPITE MR. FOURNIER'S OBVIOUS MISCON-CEPTION.

WE DID NOT COME HERE TO DINE...

68

Jupiter System Union Chief Delegate Doturov68

THEY CLAIM TO BE CYBORG ...

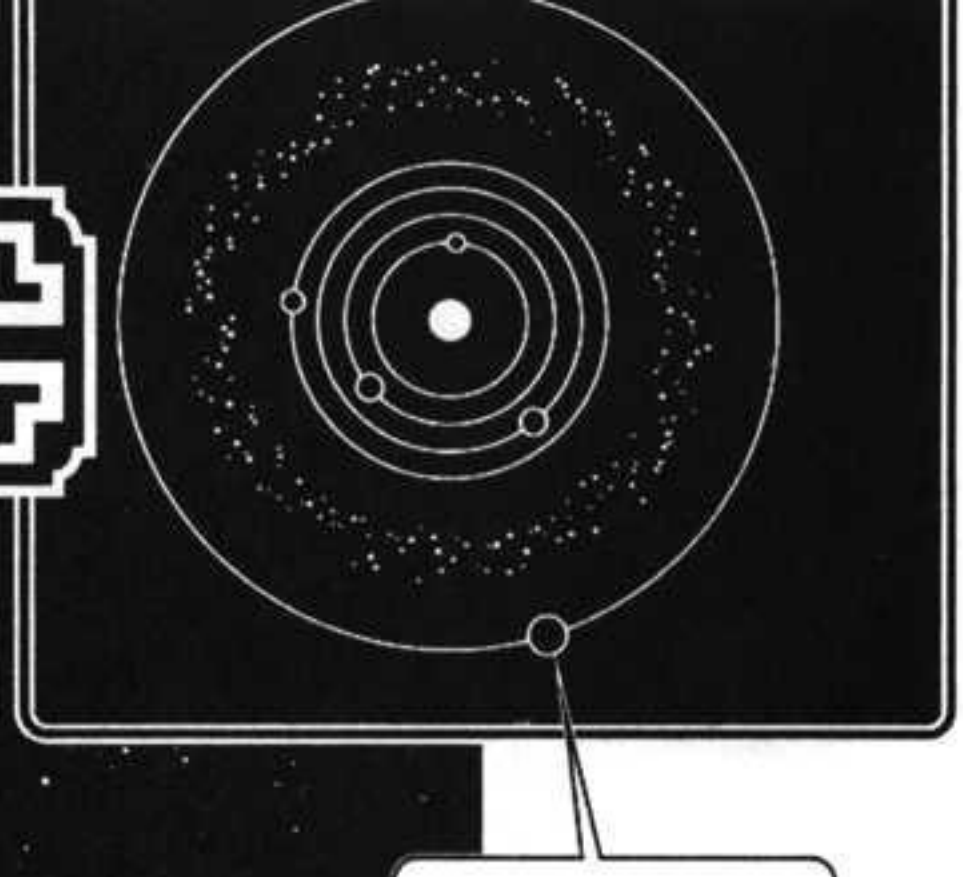
ARE THE JOVIANS ROBOTS?

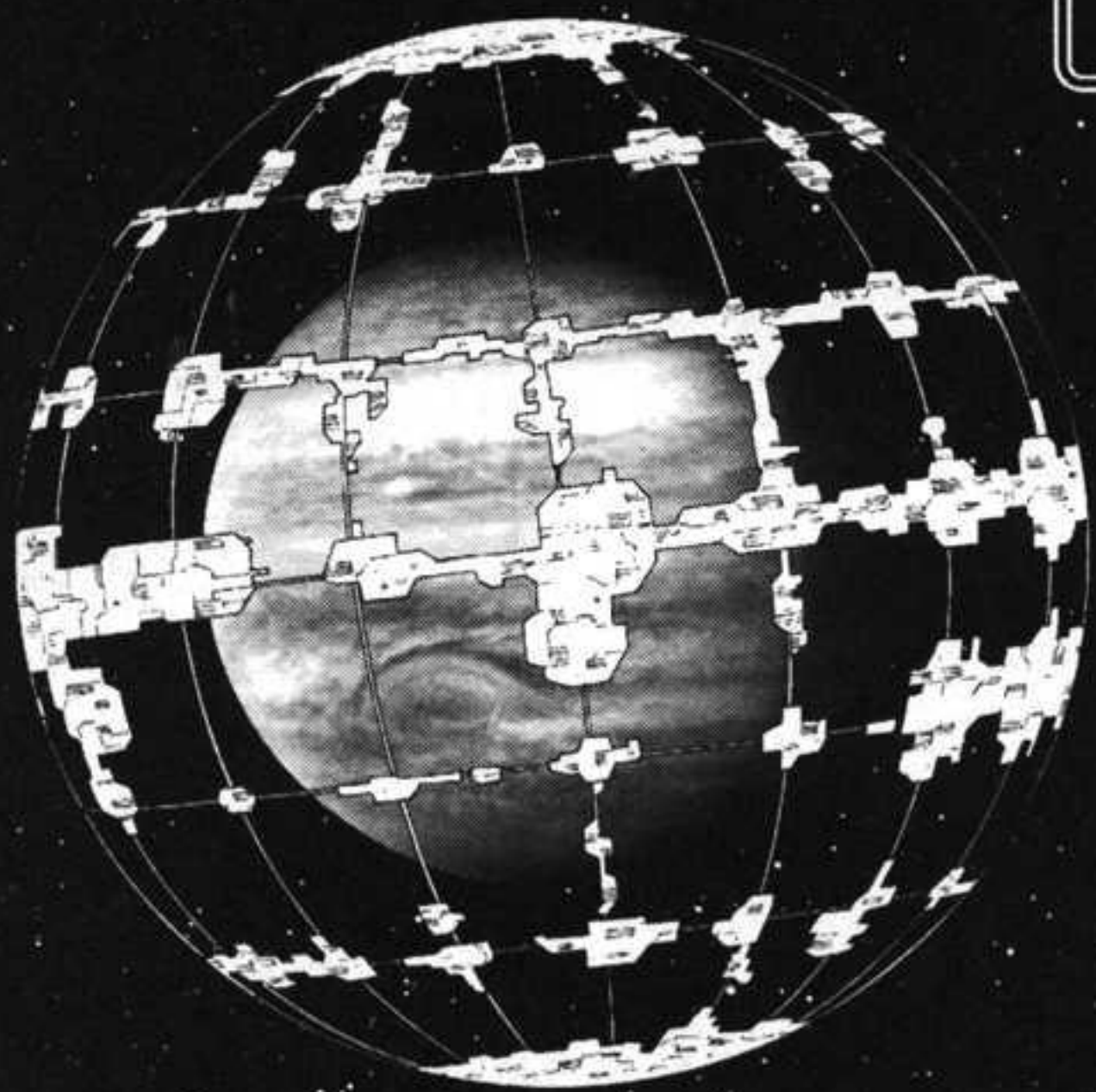
NON-HUMANOID MODELS ARE THE LATEST TO JOIN THE UNION...

VENUSIANS DON'T GET ON WITH JOVIANS.

THESE TWO SUPER-POWERS DOMINATE THE POLITICS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

Jupiter System Union



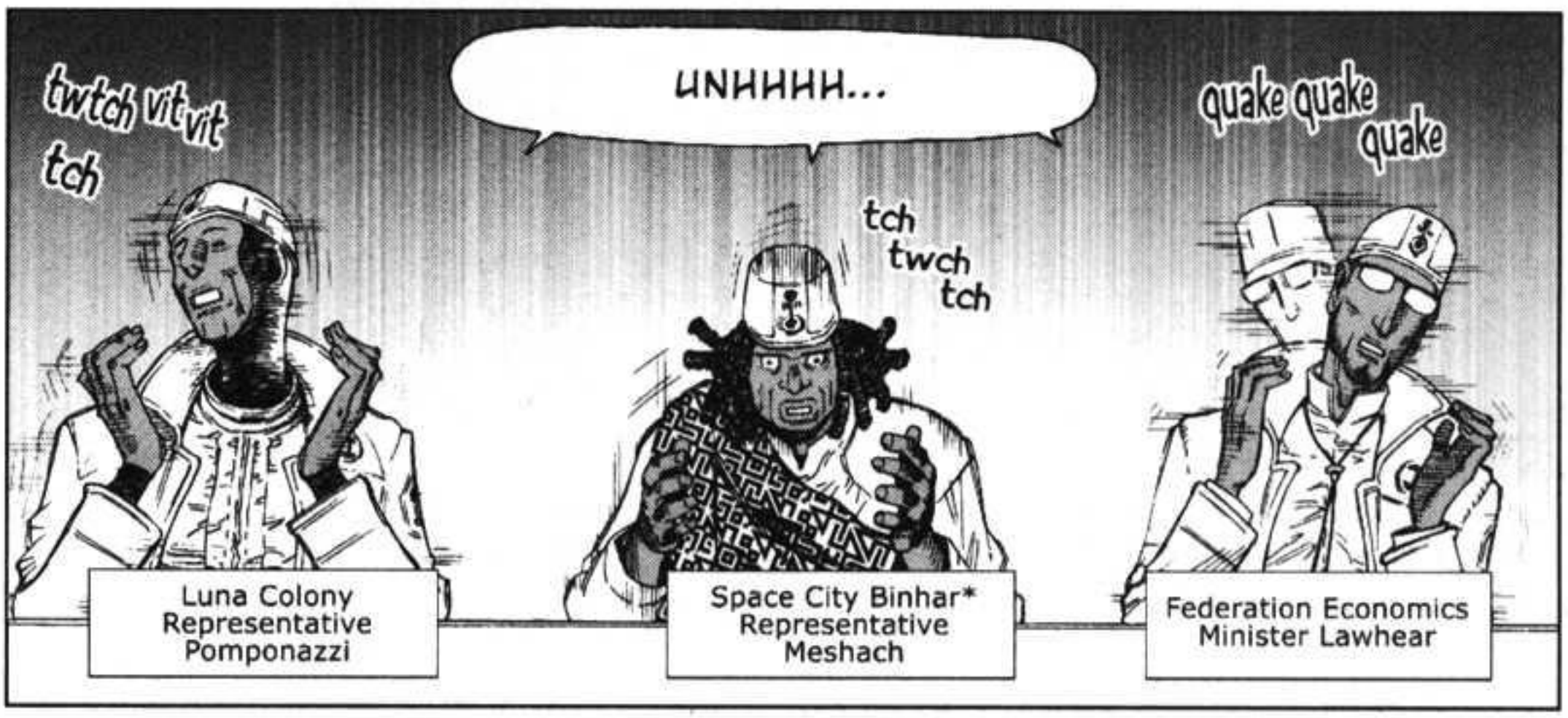


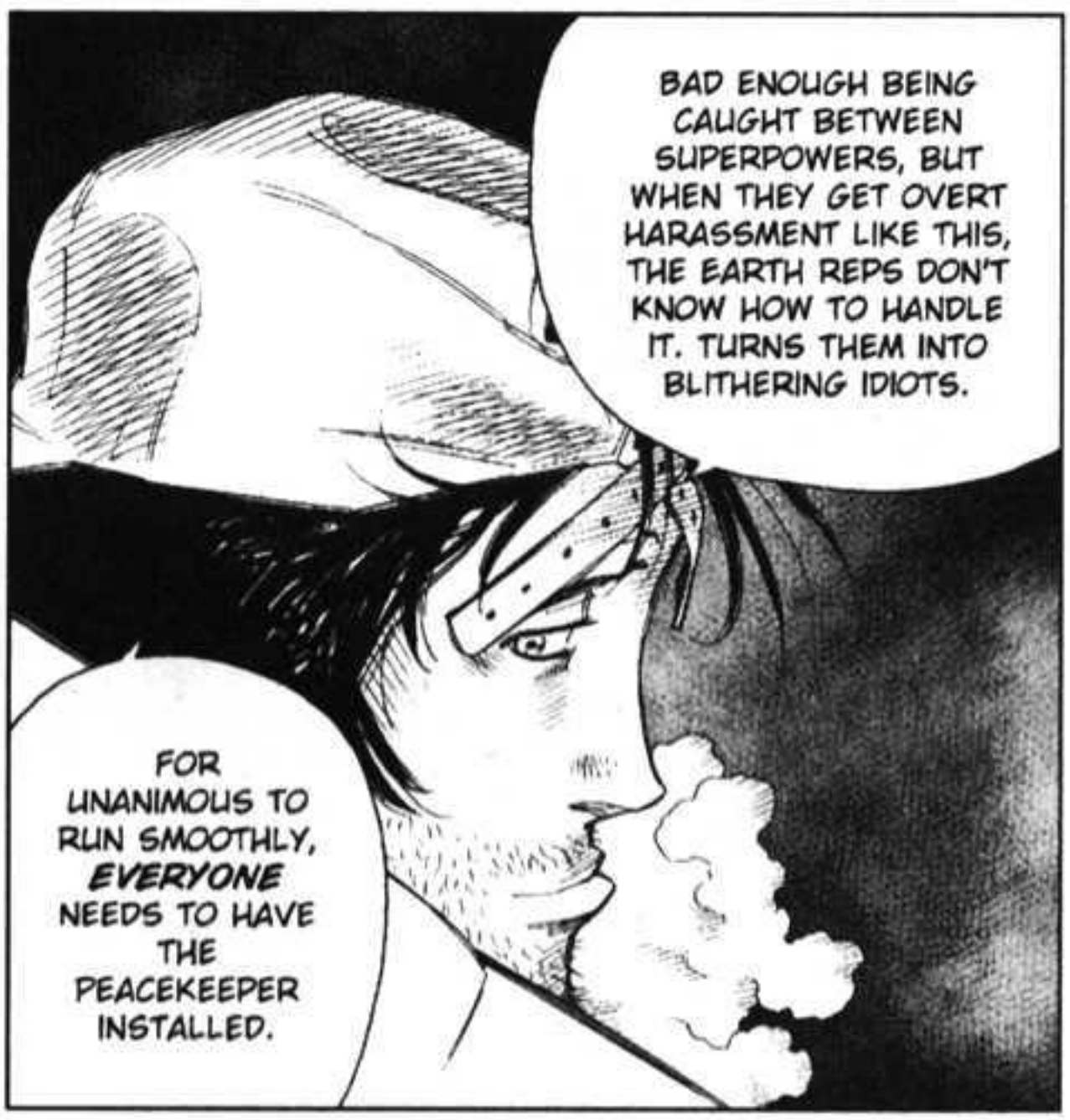
Jupiter: fifth planet from the sun
Radius at equator: 71,398 km
Period of rotation: 0.4 days
Period of revolution: 11.86 years

ES 263: The first colony is built on Ganymede, one of the Galilean satellites.*
ES 300: The Jupiter System Union declares independence, with colonies not only on the Galilean moons, but also on the Trojan asteroid clouds along Jupiter's orbital path. It maintains a healthy economy due to the wealth of mineral resources on the asteroids, and the abundance of the nuclear fusion fuel helium-3** in the Jovian atmosphere.
ES 316: Work begins on the "Toposphere Project," a giant shell to provide living space for Jupiter. Of the 16 original moons, all but three (Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto—each too urbanized to sacrifice) have been consumed to provide materials for the unfinished Toposphere. Jupiter and Venus both claim rights to Saturn's satellites and the asteroid belt to use as resources for their terraforming efforts.

The mechanized metropolis on Ganymede, the largest Jovian moon. Citizens are required to be space-compatible cyborgs, so few airtight chambers are needed.

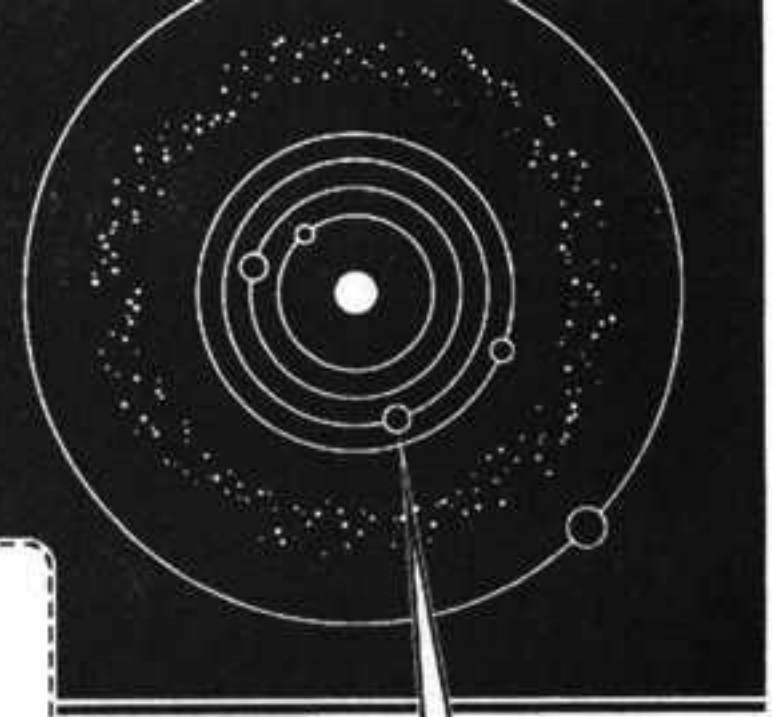
*Galilean satellites: four large moons discovered by Galileo in 1610: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.
**Helium-3: an isotope of helium. A deuterium-helium-3 plasma reaction operates at close to 100% efficiency, making it the ideal fuel for nuclear fusion.





**Binhar: the Space City diametrically opposed to Ketheres pumps oxygen and seawater from the surface via the orbital elevator for export to the colonies. The corresponding surface gate city is Nezher.*

Earth Orbitary Federation



The Orbital Ring System
An orbital ring of two masses, wrapped in a tube and spinning in opposite directions, supports the diametrically opposed orbital elevators. The advantage of this structure is that the elevators can be constructed in places other than the equator, on any desired latitude and longitude.

Earth: third planet from the sun
Radius at equator: 6378 km
Period of rotation: 0.997 days
Period of revolution: 365.26 days
Satellite: Luna
Radius at equator: 1738 km
Period of revolution: 27.32 days

Space City Binhar

Sky hook

Earth

Orbital ring

Space City Ketheres

Orbital elevator

Earth: cradle of the human race.
ES 55: Geo Catastrophe—a giant meteor impact near Japan almost wipes out the entire population of the planet. Seventy years later, Melchizedek, an A.I. that managed to survive this extinction level event, implements the Rehabilitation Settlement Project, sending pioneers to other planets to dilute the danger of extinction.
ES 218: The orbital ring system "Jacob's Ladder" is complete. The settlement project shows steady progress, but Earth is forced to alter its role after the colonies declare independence.
ES 301: Earth and the lunar colonies declare the formation of the Earth Orbitary Federation.
ES 387: LADDER, the Solar System Treaty Mediatory Council, is founded on Space City Ketheres. Their unique history and political circumstances make the character of the Federation complex. Although weather patterns on the surface have been stable for two centuries, open redevelopment and transportation are still restricted by treaties.

The **skyhook**, the link between the orbital elevator and the orbital ring. The orbital ring system has undergone many repairs, and its roles and functions have changed dramatically.

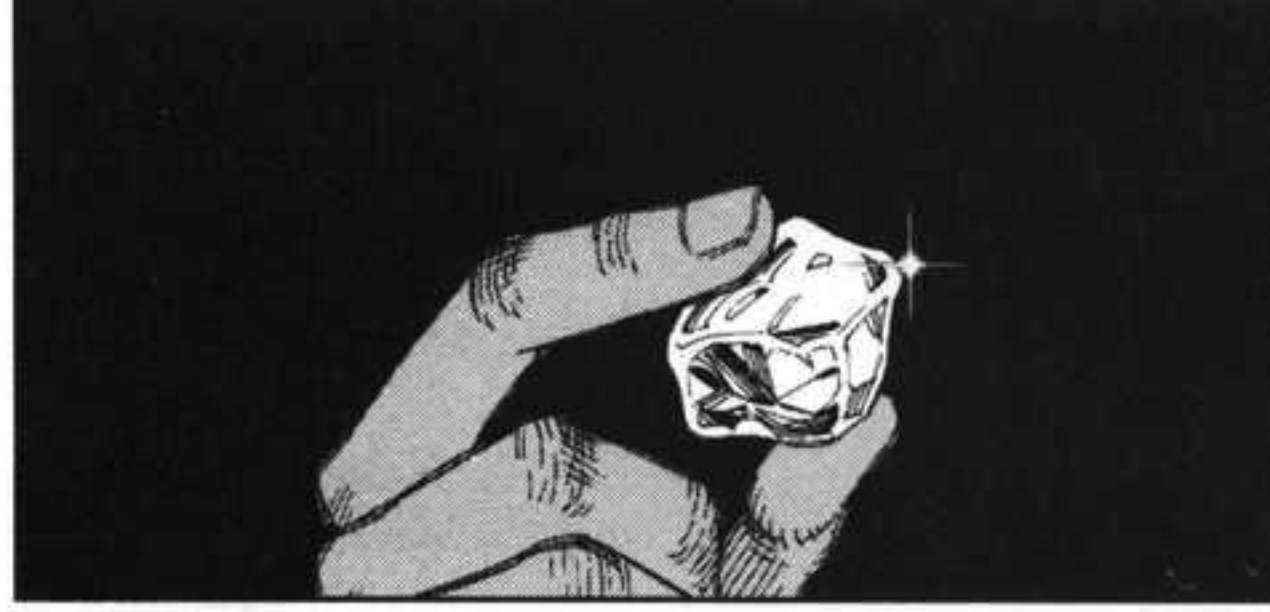
These planetary terraforming concepts were based on ideas of the British scientist Paul Birch.—Kishiro

PSST!

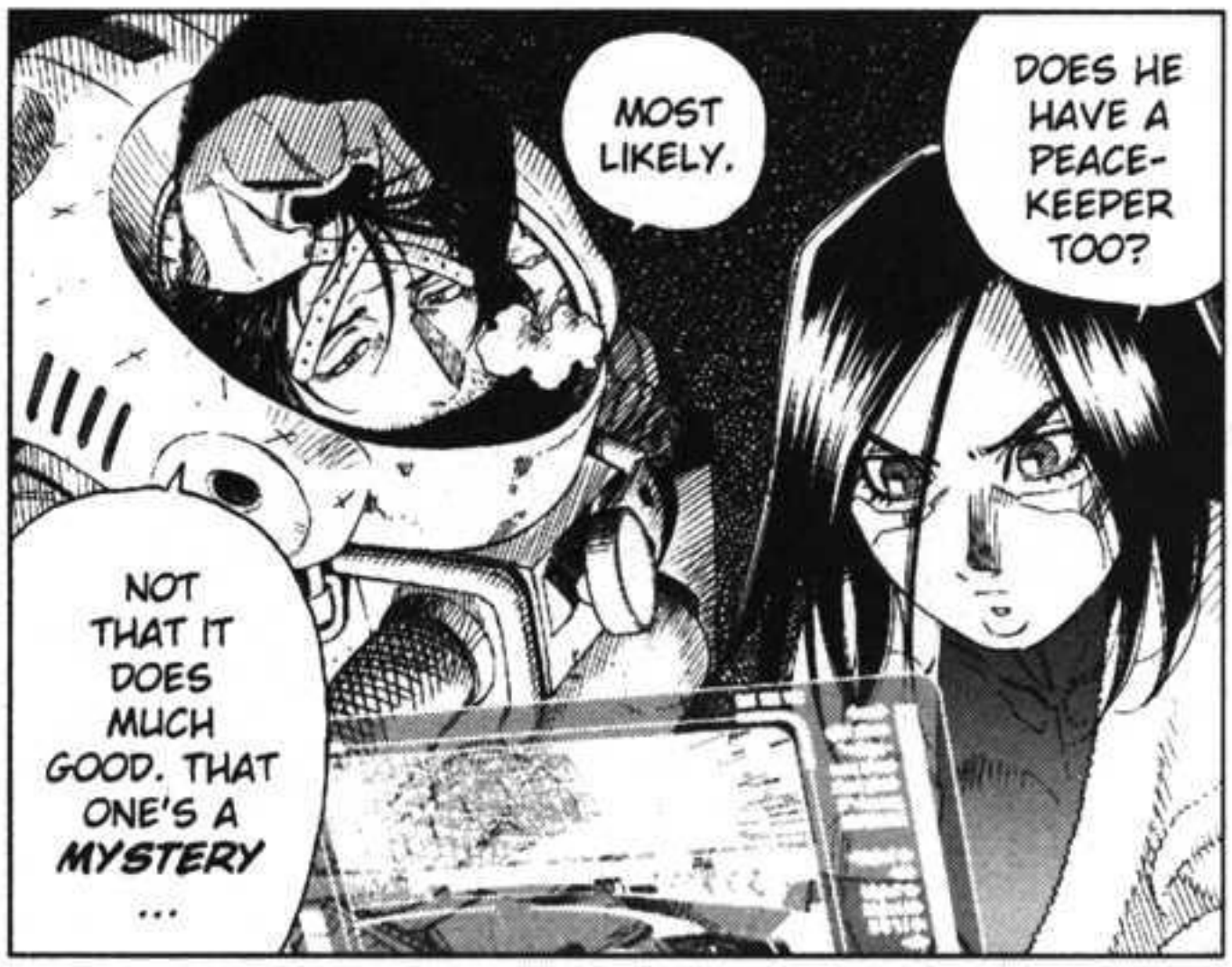
SAY WHAT?

TAKE YOURS TO GO.
ALL RIGHT. GRR..

CHAIR-MAN, LET'S MOVE ON!
O-OF COURSE!



I'LL STICK WITH ICE CUBES, THANKS.
krsh
krnch


MOST LIKELY.
DOES HE HAVE A PEACE-KEEPER TOO?
NOT THAT IT DOES MUCH GOOD. THAT ONE'S A MYSTERY ...

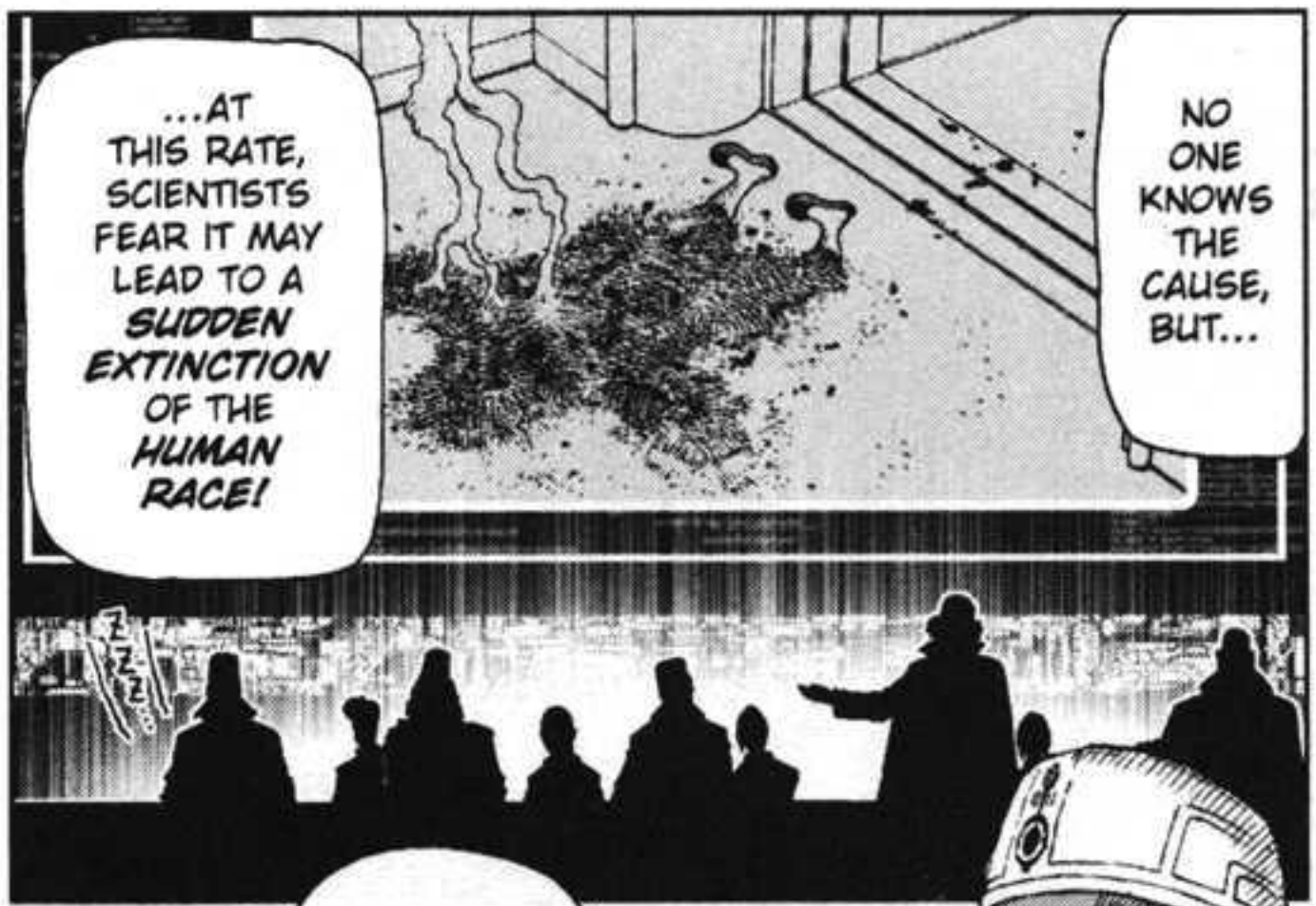
KEEP YOUR EYE ON HIM!
THE SO-CALLED ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN— LADDER'S TOP DOG!

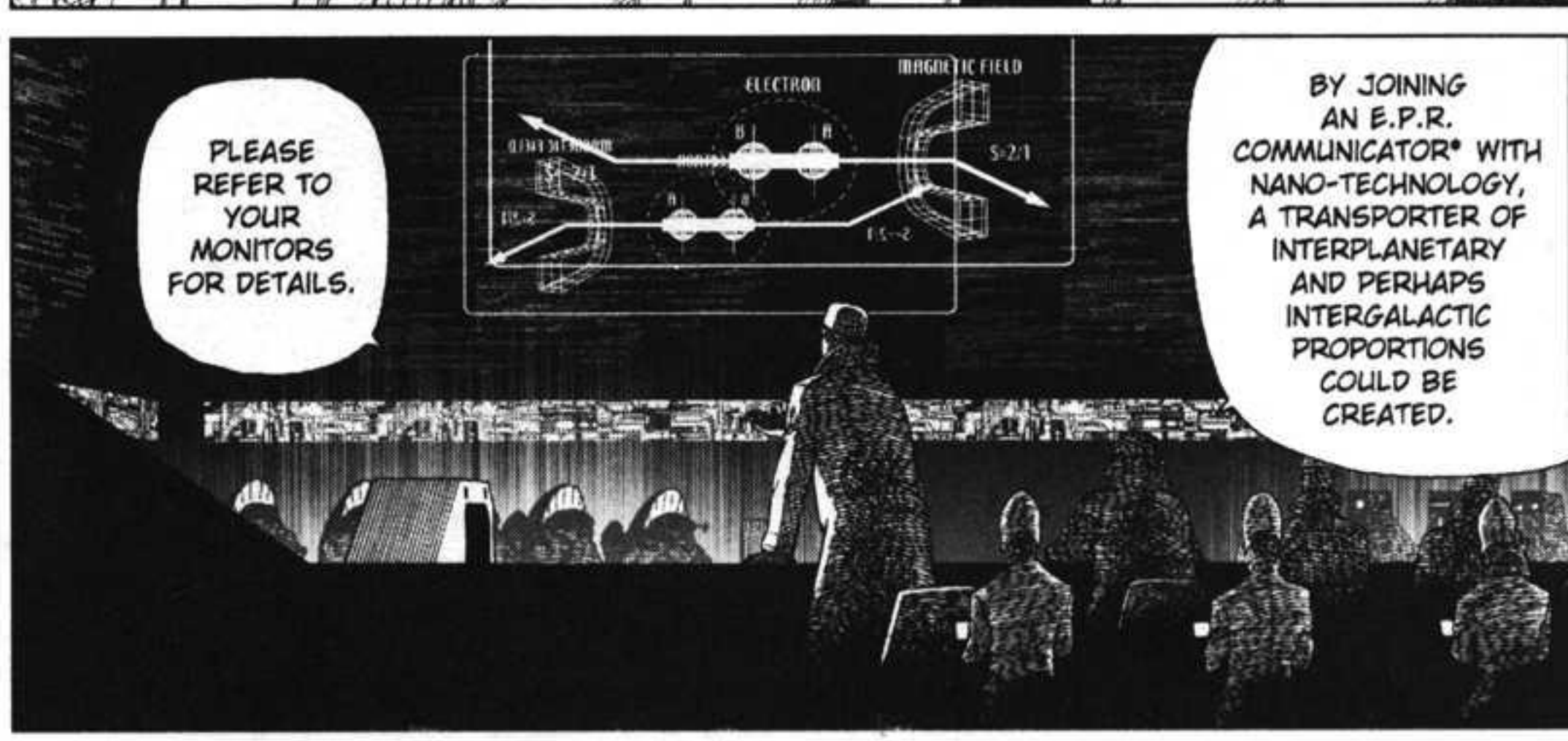
...THE UNION HAS NOTIFIED LADDER OF A LARGE-SCALE MILITARY ACTION PLAN INCLUDING A HUNT FOR JUVENILES.

ASTEROID BELT

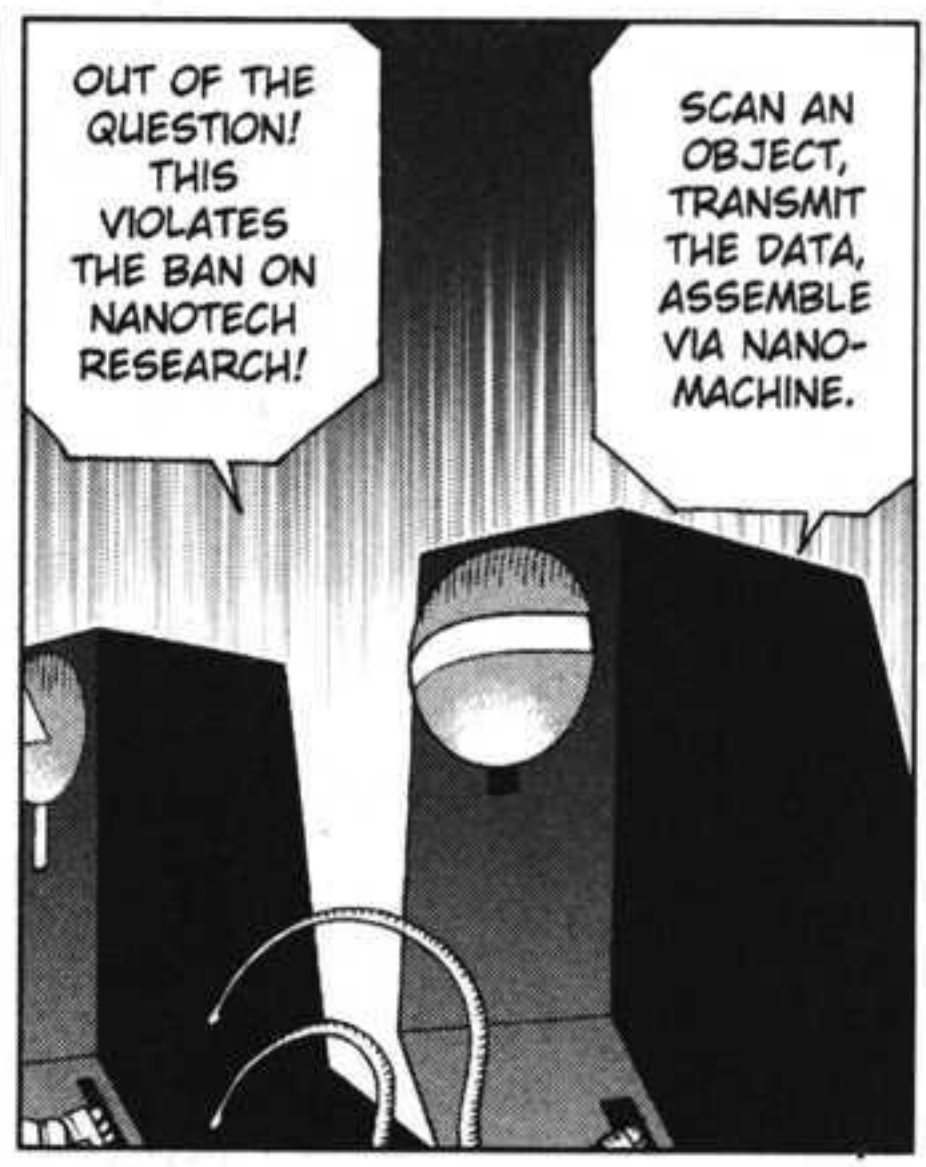
THE CENSUS RESULTS FOR THE FRONTIERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE RATE OF METHUSELYZATION* IS COMPARATIVELY LOW, AND THE BIRTHRATE EXCEEDINGLY HIGH— ESPECIALLY IN THE MINOR COLONIES OF THE ASTEROID BELT.** AS A CONSEQUENCE...

*Methuselyzation: halting the aging process by installing personal nanomachines in the body, thus making immortality a reality. Methuselah, a figure in the Bible's Book of Genesis, is purported to have lived 969 years.
**Asteroid belt: a donut-shaped region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter in which most asteroids are found.

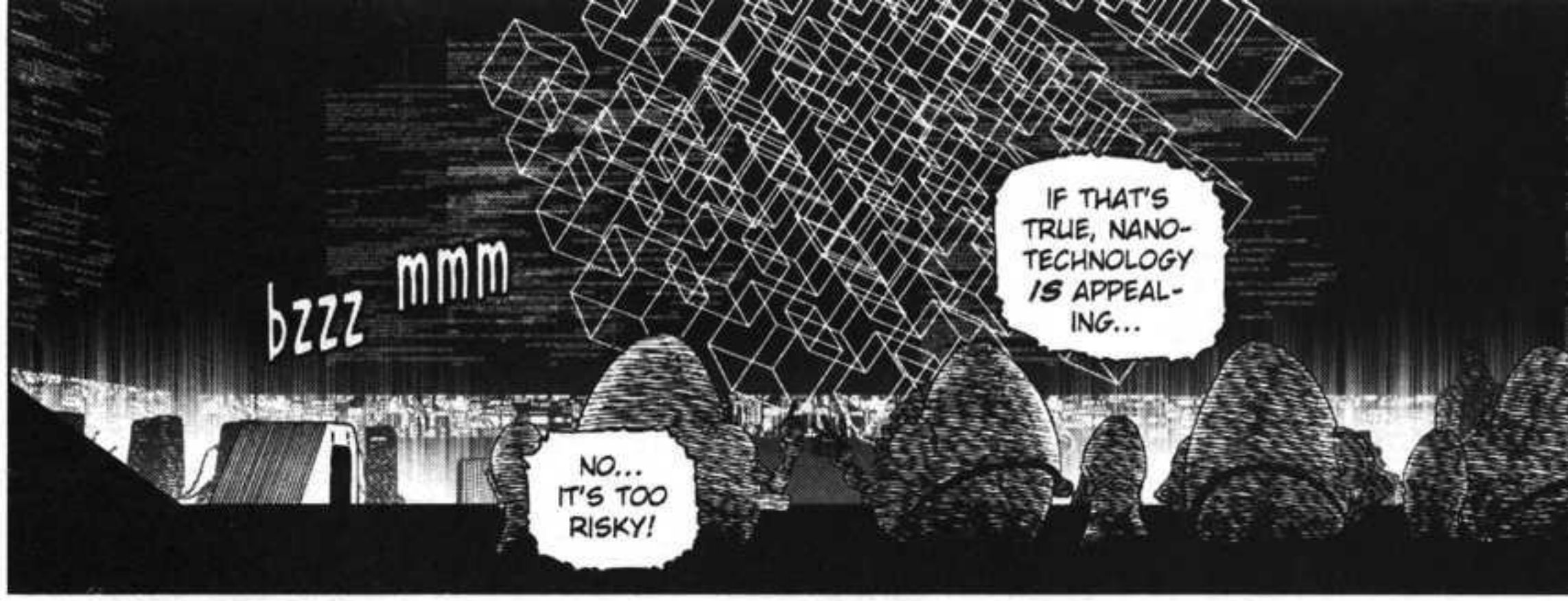


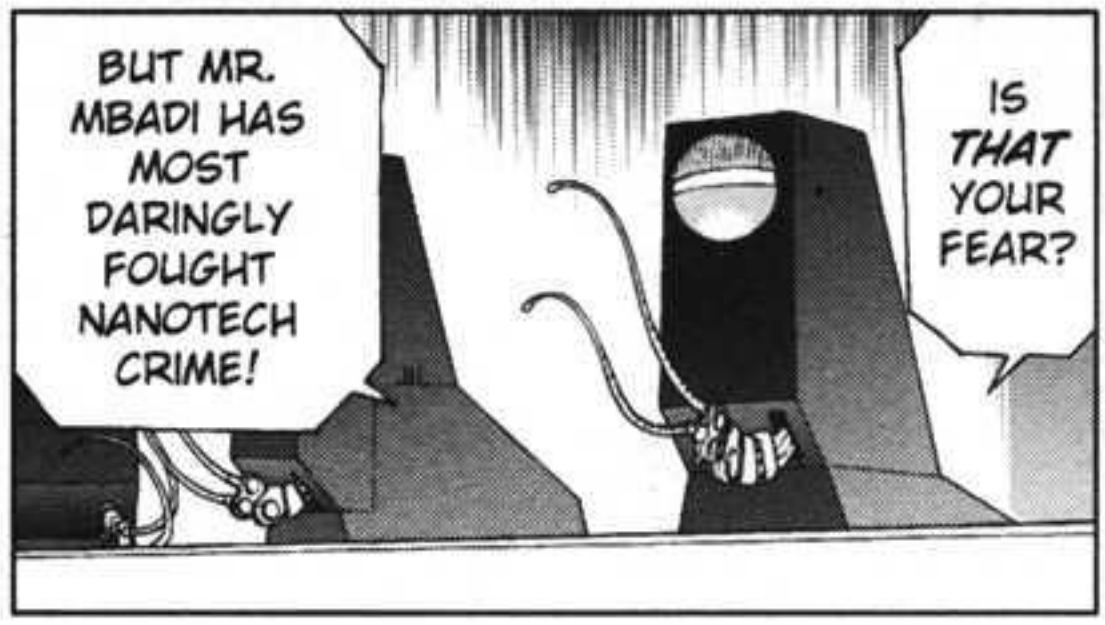


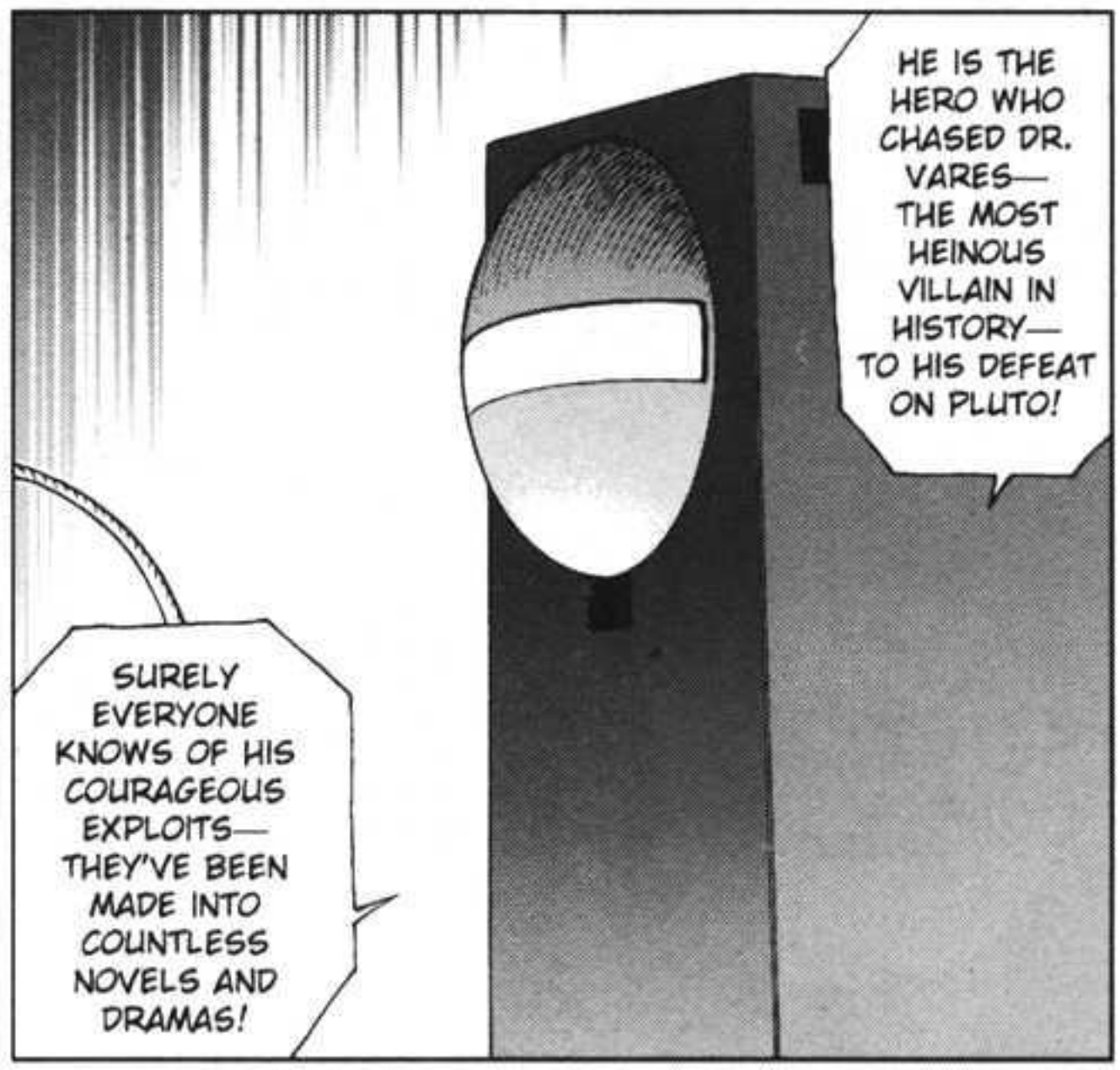
**E.P.R. Communicator: Named after Einstein, Podolsky, and Rosen, who advanced the EPR Thought Experiment as an argument to refute quantum mechanics, using relativity's concept that communication is impossible at speeds greater than that of light. Ironically, the experiment was verified by experimental violation of Bell's Inequalities, and EPR became the name for a super-luminal communicator that uses electron spin.*



**Alias Problem: when two people with the same memories, personalities, and bodies exist at the same time in the same society.*

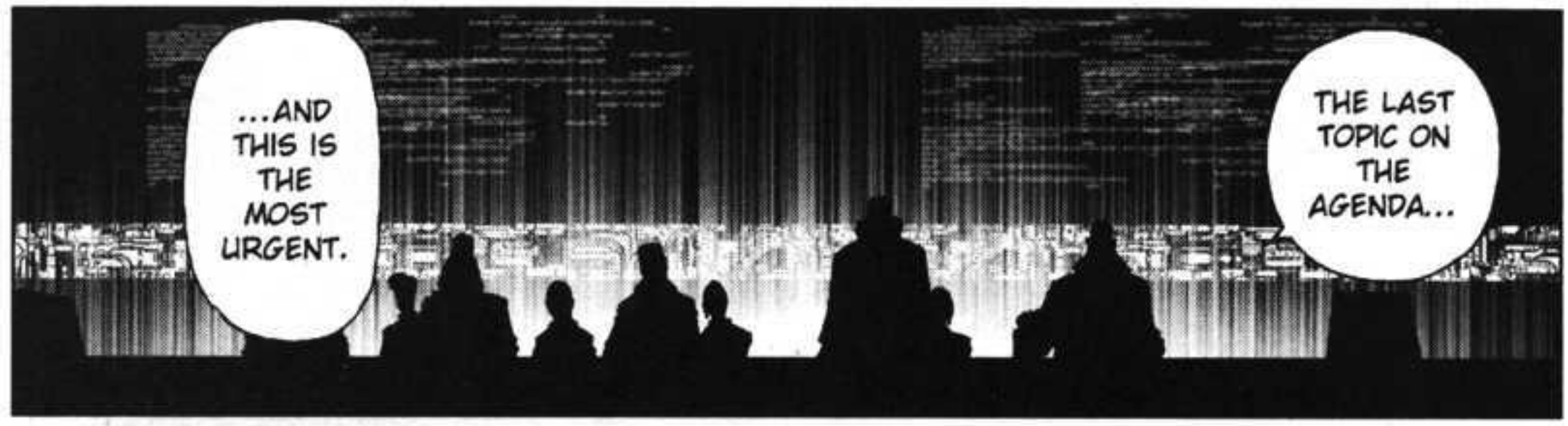


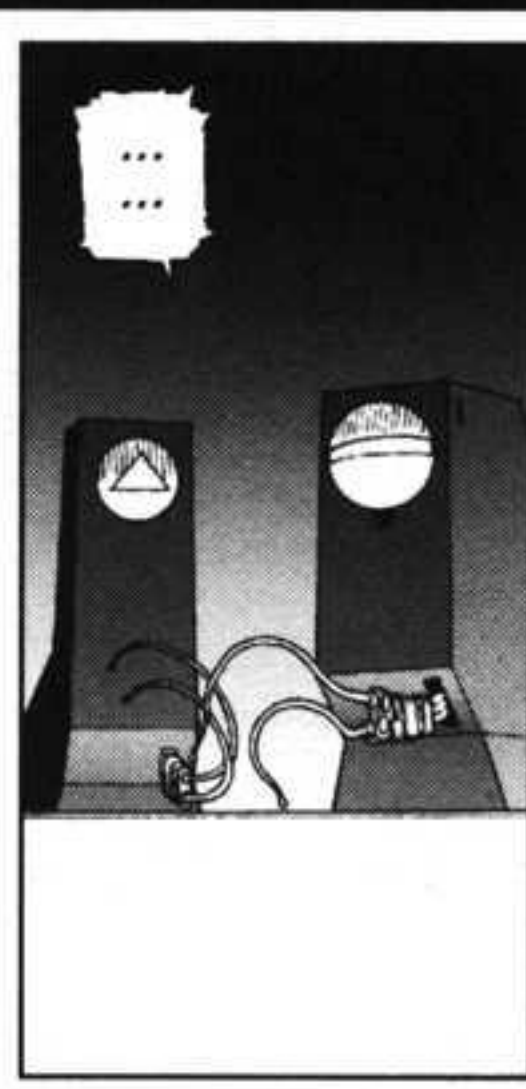




*Gray goo: jargon for a disaster brought about by self-replicating nanomachines running amuck.

IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME THIRTY YEARS...





MARS...

ah!

THIS PORT IS OPERATED BY OLYMPUS PAYLINE CO., WHICH IS FINANCED BY LADDER. WE CANNOT IGNORE THIS SITUATION.

A MONTH AGO, OLYMPUS, THE ONLY PUBLIC SPACEPORT, WAS OCCUPIED BY GUERILLAS WHO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS THE NEO-THIRD REICH DIVISION.

REC

WHAT ARE NEO-NAZIS DOING ON MARS?

ha ha ha

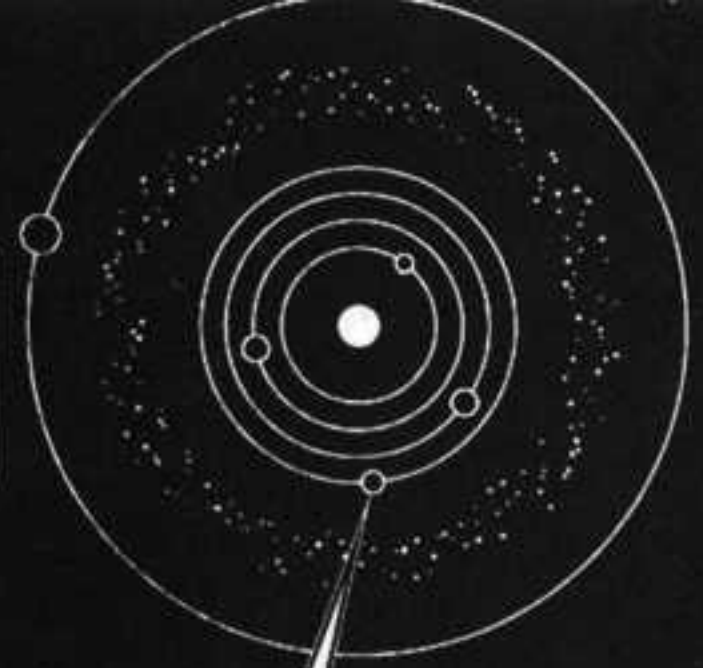
That's a classic.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT NAZI GERMANY AND THE JAPANESE EMPIRE BUILT THEIR FIRST COLONY ON MARS PRE-ES...

THE NEO-THIRD REICH DIVISION ARE A GROUP OF NATIONALIST AND RELIGIOUS FANATICS, TO BE SURE. FURTHER DETAILS ARE UNKNOWN...

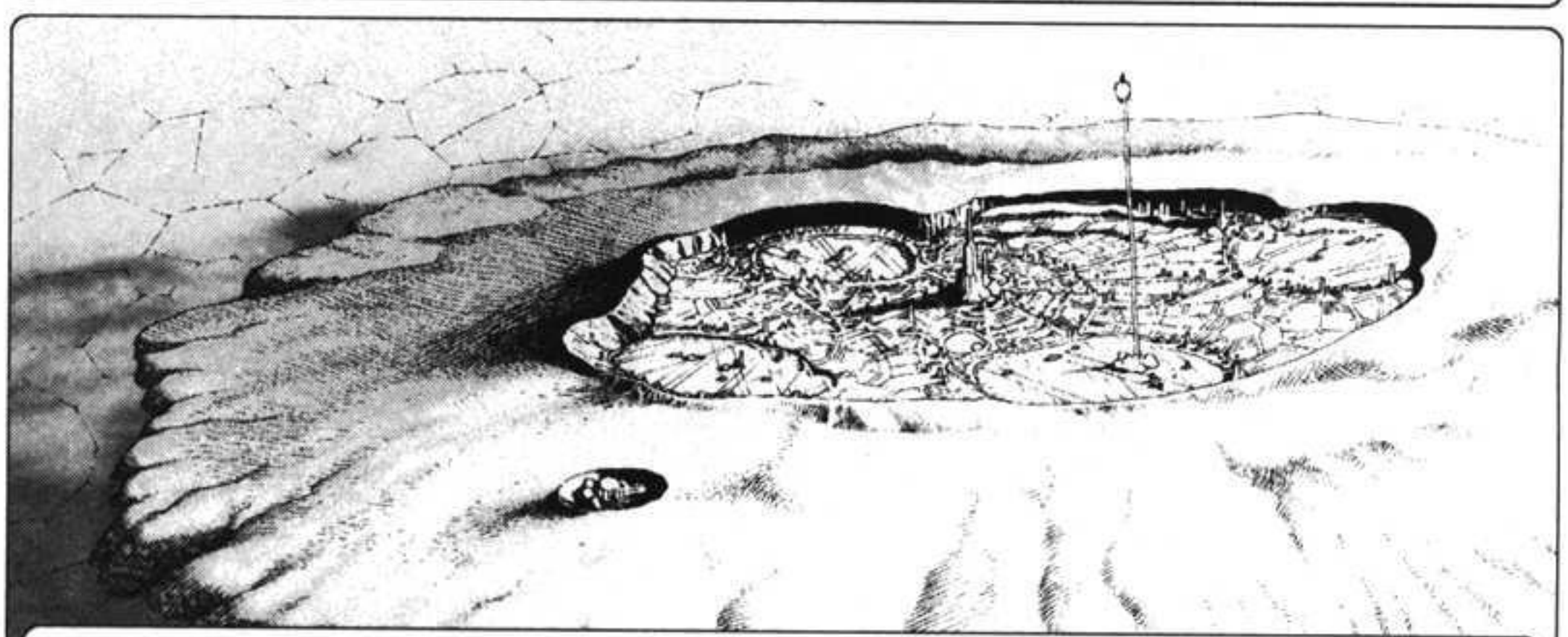
...BUT WE CANNOT UNDER-ESTIMATE THE DANGER.

Mars



Mars: fourth planet from the sun
Radius at equator: 3397 km
Period of rotation: 1.026 days
Period of revolution: 686.98 days

A planet with the oldest history of settlers. The first emigration to Mars occurred by ES 53. After the Geo Catastrophe, construction of a full-scale colony began in ES 235, but ease of emigration and a comparatively hospitable environment led to oversettling—and a prolonged civil war. The planet remains divided to this day. Making space access difficult, more than 80% of the surface is covered by a canopy that is self-repaired by nanomachines. Squabbles erupt over control of orbiting mirror satellites that supplement the insufficient sunlight, but the atmosphere is breathable.
Four roughly divided groups currently vy for supremacy:
MRH (Mars Republik Heer): Mars Republic Army: funded by République Vénus to unify Mars and make it join the République.
**MFB (Mars Front der Befreien): funded by the Jupiter Union to unify Mars and make it join the Union.
Mars Kingdom Parliament: LADDER-spearheaded attempt at constitutional monarchy.
Neo Third Reich Division: an emergent group calling itself the "Last Battalion" that aims to unify Mars, resurrect the Third Reich, and conquer the entire galaxy.

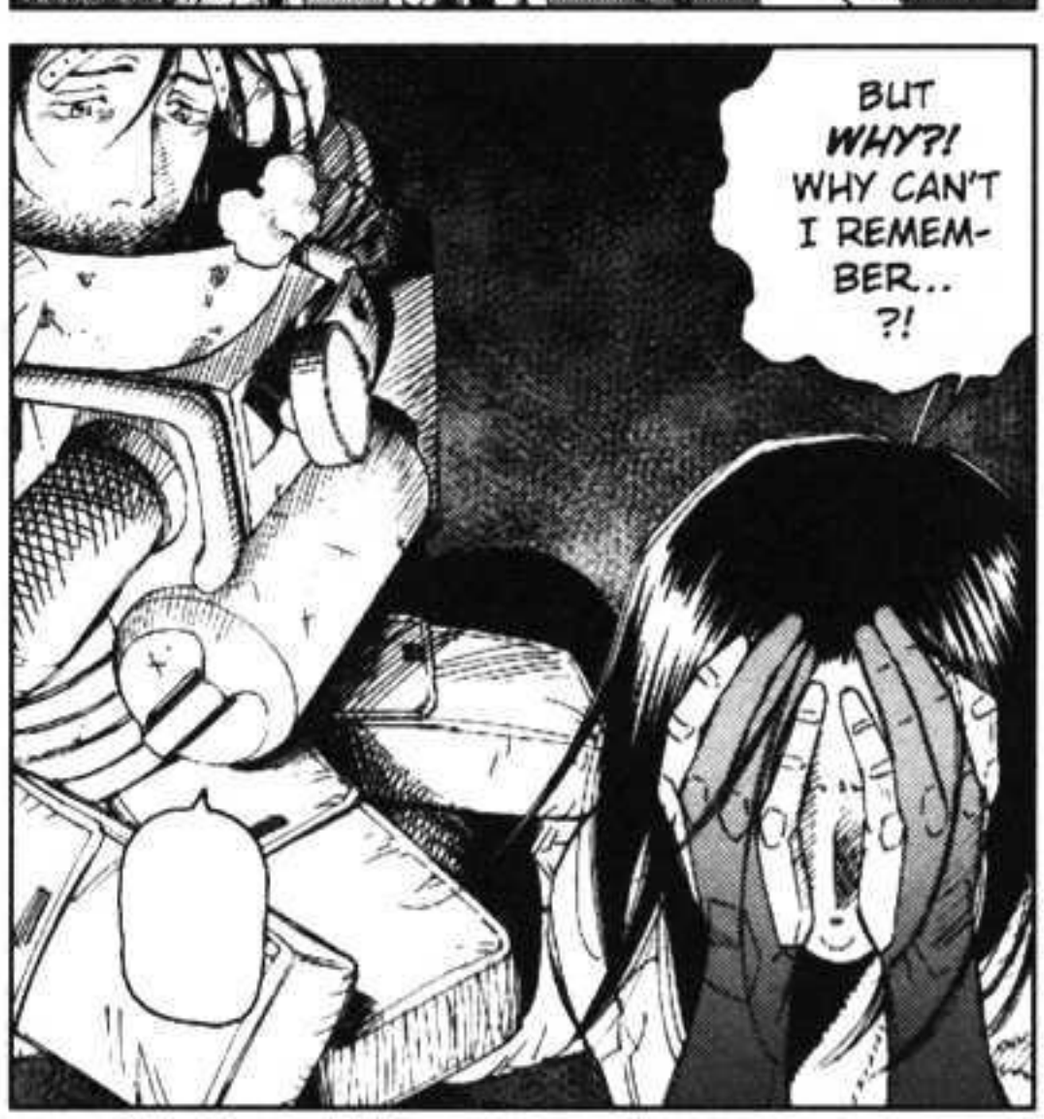


Olympus Spaceport, built in a caldera on Olympus Mons, largest mountain on Mars.

NO KID-DING!
HUH ?!
MARS... THAT'S MY HOME...

WAR? THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN WAR ON MARS.
I CAN ONLY RECALL BITS AND PIECES...
...LIKE WAR.. THERE WAS A WAR..

...AND THESE TEARS!
IT HURTS ... IN MY CHEST ...


BUT WHY?! WHY CAN'T I REMEM-BER.. ?!

NO... A BIG WAR.. BIG ENOUGH...
...TO DESTROY ENTIRE PLANETS!

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE TERRA-FORMING WARS?

THAT WAS OVER 200 YEARS AGO.

...SPREAD IT ALL OVER THE NET! LADDER WAS SET UP AS A RESULT, AND THEN A CEASE-FIRE...

HOW OLD AM I AGAIN?

THERE WAS THIS HACKER, AT THE END OF THE GREAT WAR—STOLE SOME METHUSELAH TECH FROM A LAB ON VENUS...

200 YEARS?!

SHE MUST BE ALIVE!

TH-THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!

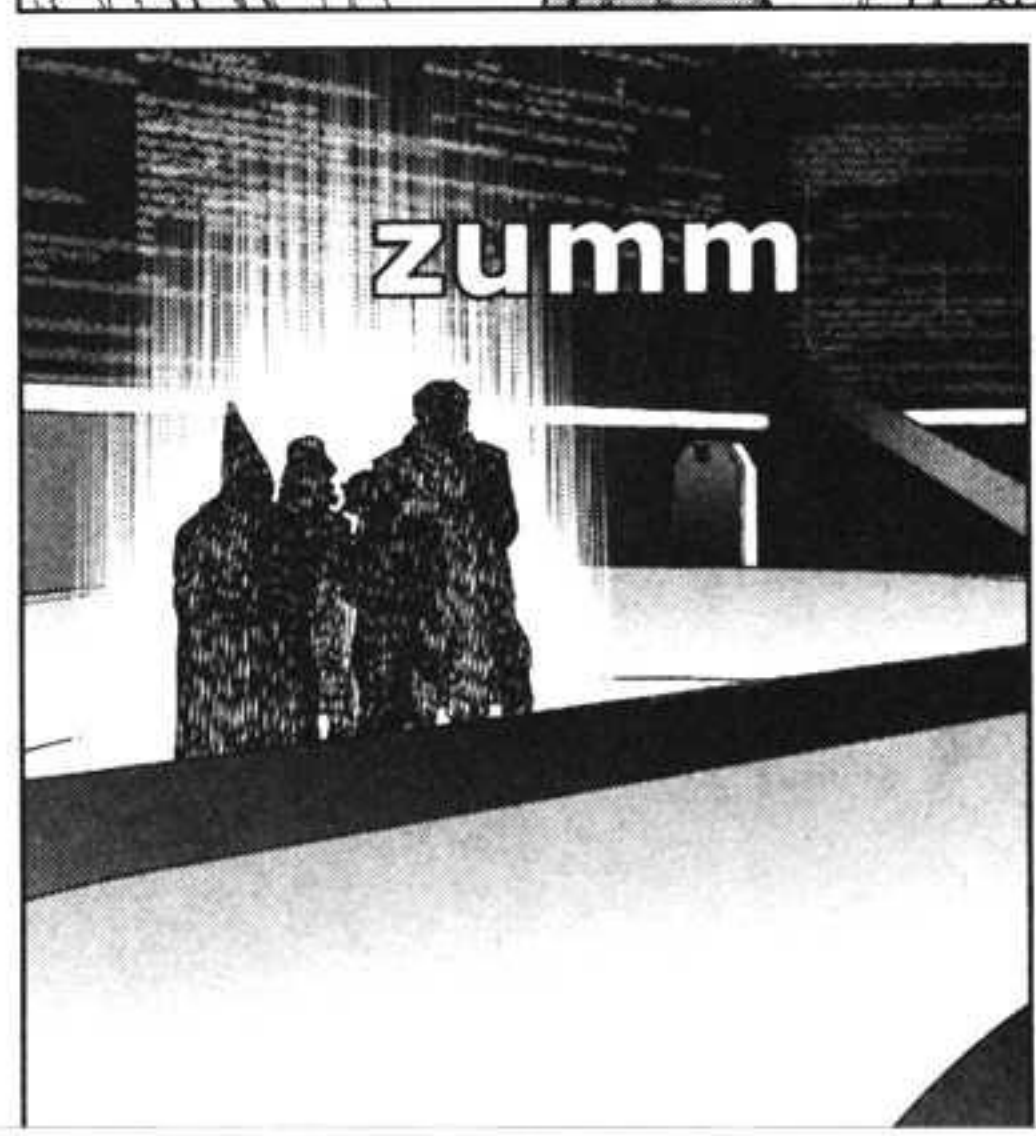
AND IF I'M STILL ALIVE...

...ERICA COULD BE OUT THERE, TOO...

NOW WE SEE YOUR FANGS!
WE MUSTN'T DAMAGE THE PORT! SEND AID TO THE LOCAL FORCES— PUT THEM TO USE!

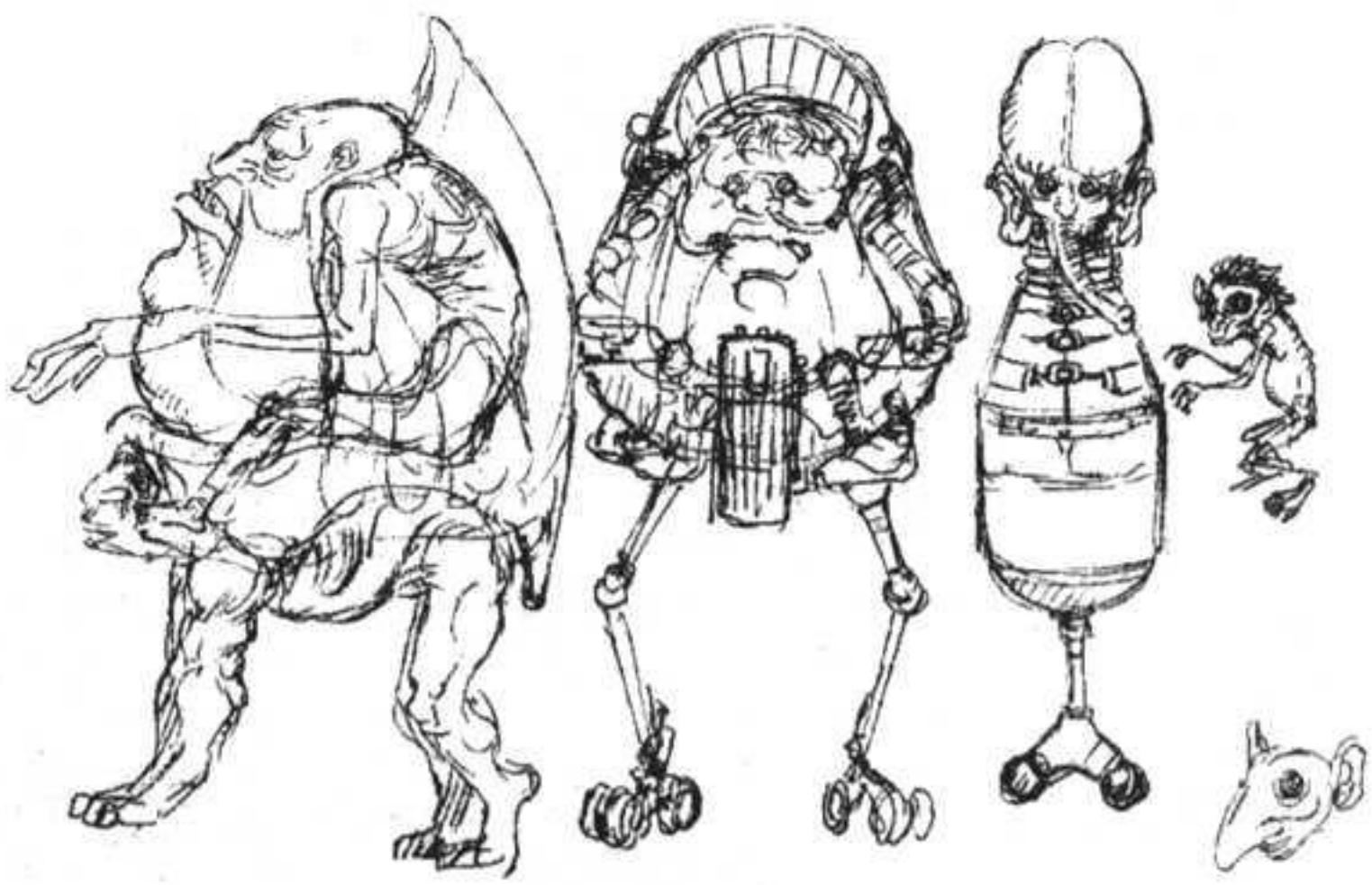
SEND THE UNION'S SPACE FLEET TO BOMB THEM!

...OF INVITING A SPECIAL GUEST TO WEIGH IN ON THIS MATTER.
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY...


zumm

COME IN!

THE NEW QUEEN LIMEIRA...
...OF THE MARS KINGDOM PARLIAMENT!



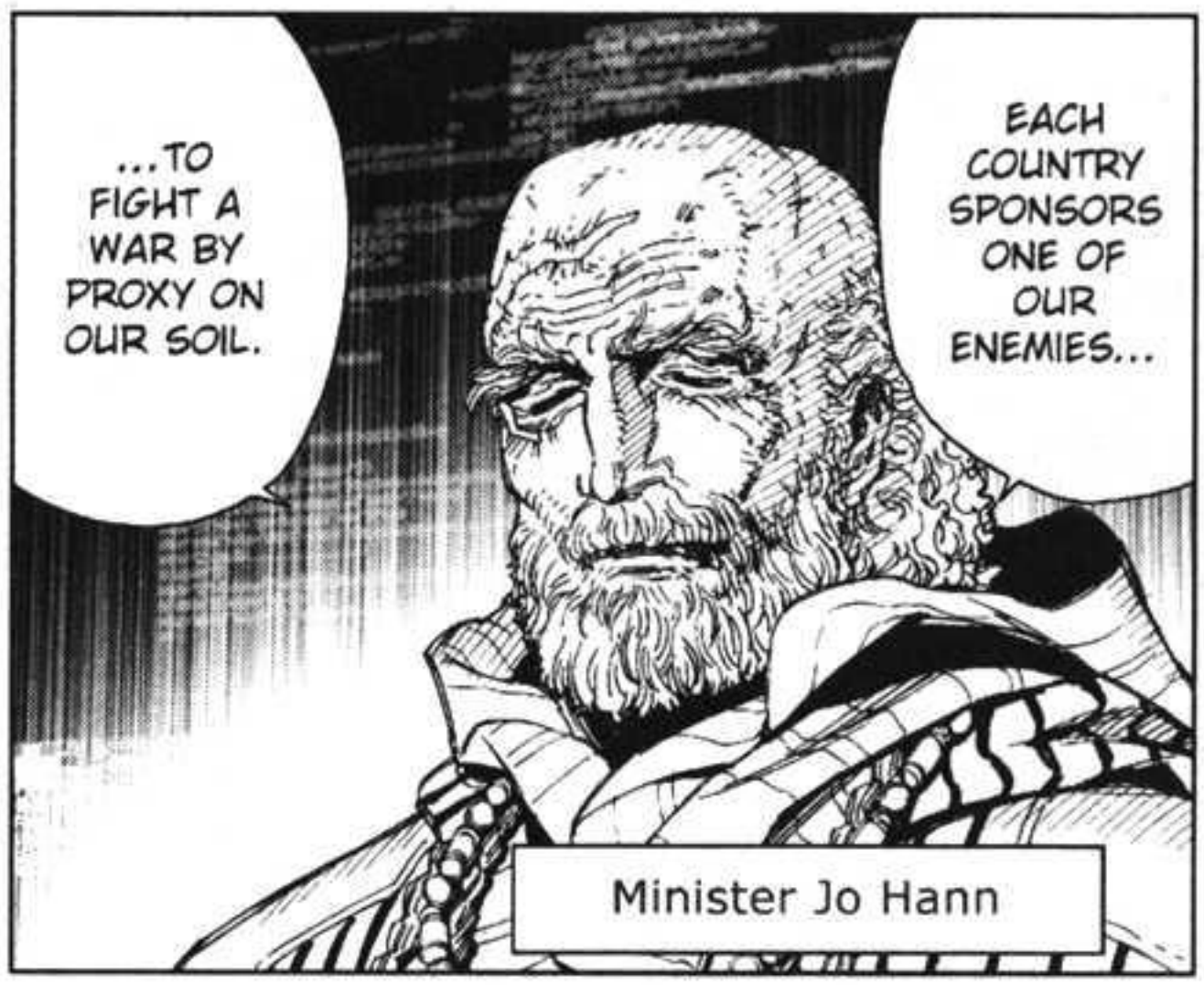
PHASE 16

I Will Put This World Right

OH, DEAR ME!

I'VE CAUSED QUITE THE COMMOTION!

Mars Kingdom Parliament's Queen Limeira


...TO FIGHT A WAR BY PROXY ON OUR SOIL.
EACH COUNTRY SPONSORS ONE OF OUR ENEMIES...
Minister Jo Hann

WHATEVER IS THE PROBLEM, JO?
WELL, MA'AM...

NO, WE ARE HERE SOLELY AT MR. MBADI'S DISCRETION.
I ASSUMED OUR PRESENCE WAS AGREED UPON BY ALL.
SO THEY'D LIKE *THEIR* SIDES REPRE-SENTED AS WELL.

WE DID NOT COME...
...MAY BE HERE...
...IN THIS *VERY ROOM!*

A PITY I HAVE NO GUN.
THE MAN WHO KILLED OUR KING...
General Yazuiji

...TO TAKE REVENGE OR TO WAGE WAR, GENERAL.

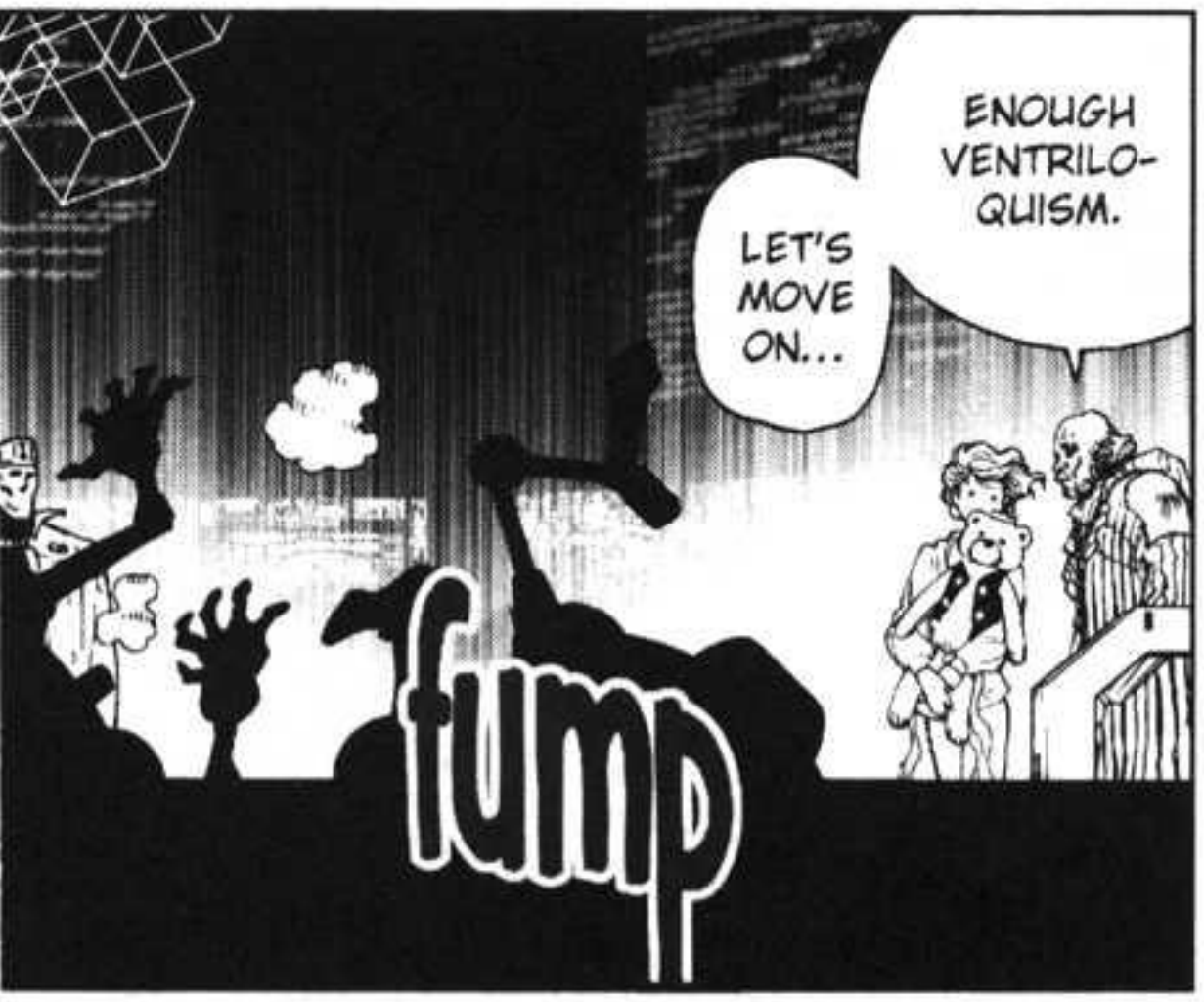
...SAY "HI."
KÖNIG...
A TOY BEAR?!
WHAT?
THAT'S GERMAN FOR "KING"...
KÖNIG ?!
How do you do...
Hello, all!

I-IT CAN'T BE!

bzz

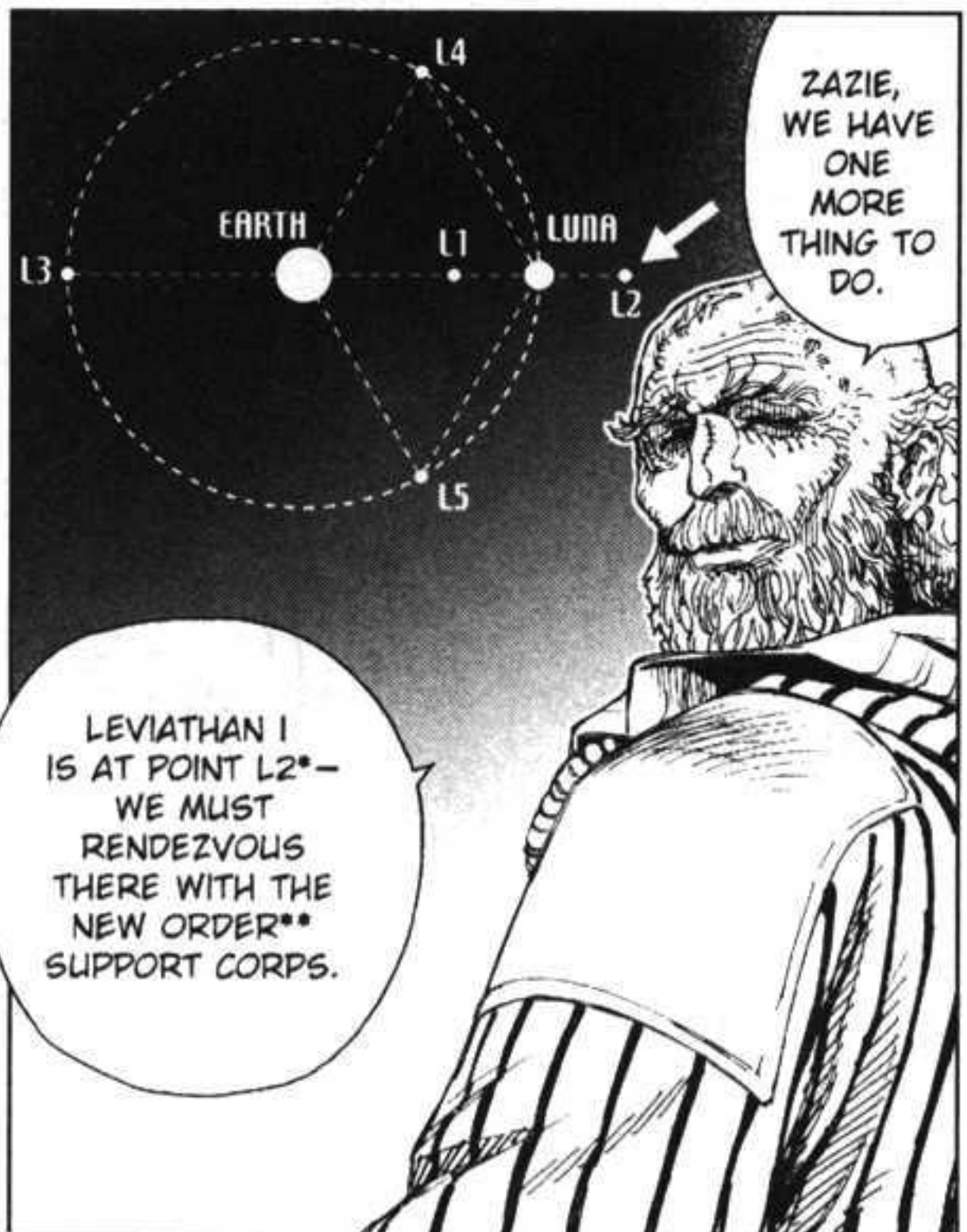
mzz

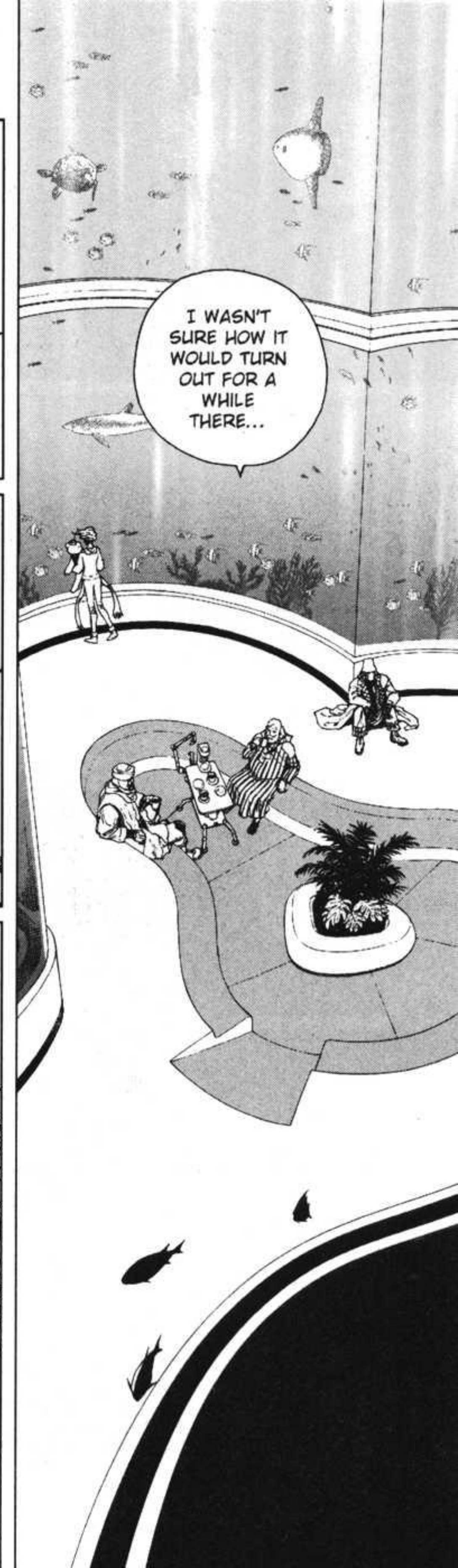
URK!



LADDER WILL *OWE* US IF WE RECAPTURE THE SPACEPORT.
...BUT LET'S BE GLAD FOR EVEN THREE MONTHS OF AID.

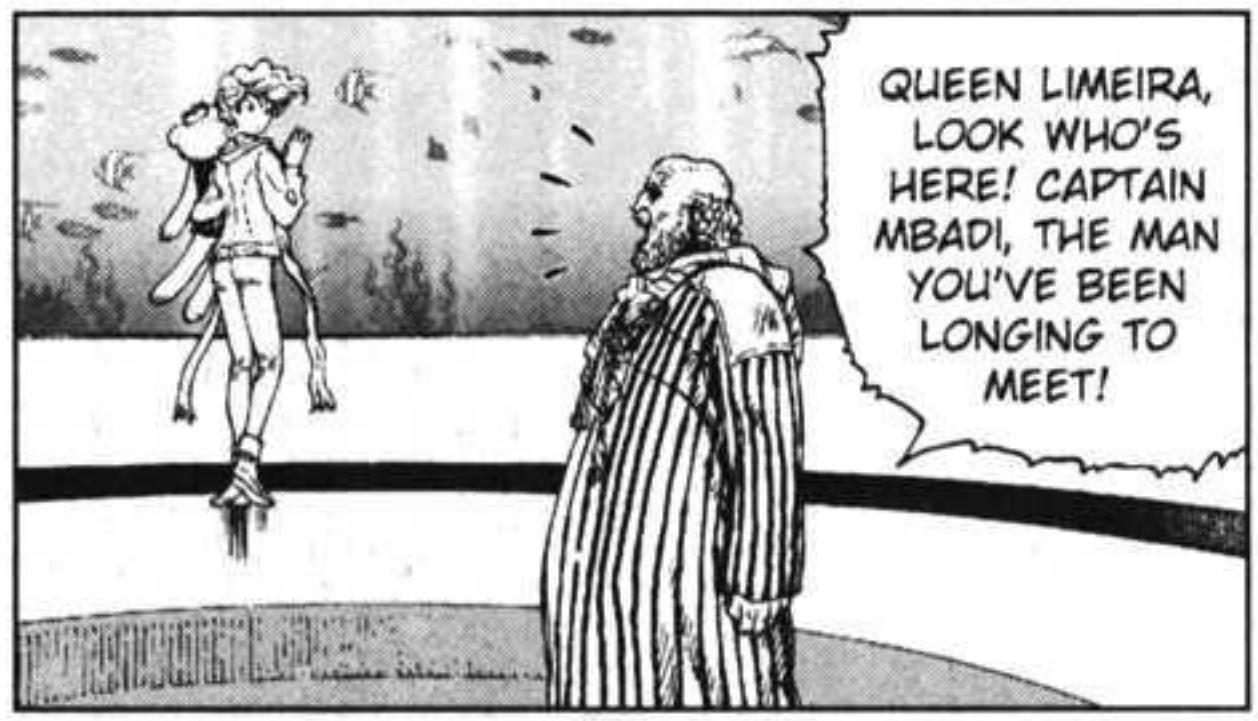
BACK TO THE BATTLE-FIELD!
I DON'T FEEL AT HOME HERE...
Queen's Escort Zazie

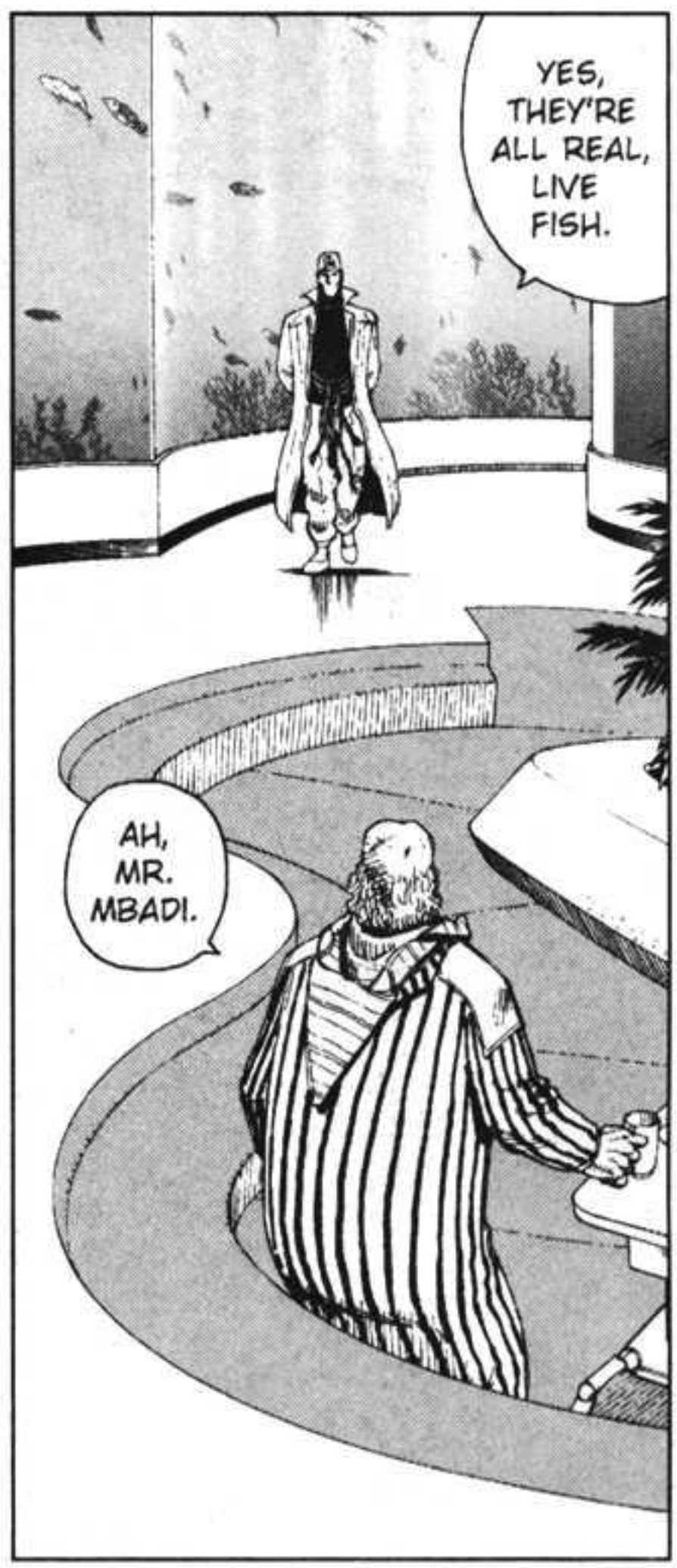

L4
EARTH
L1
LUNA
L3
L2
L5
ZAZIE, WE HAVE ONE MORE THING TO DO.
LEVIATHAN I IS AT POINT L2*— WE MUST RENDEZVOUS THERE WITH THE NEW ORDER** SUPPORT CORPS.


I WASN'T SURE HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT FOR A WHILE THERE...

ARE THESE ALL *REAL*, JO?

GOSH, LOOK AT ALL THESE FISH! I'VE ONLY SEEN THEM IN *BOOKS!*

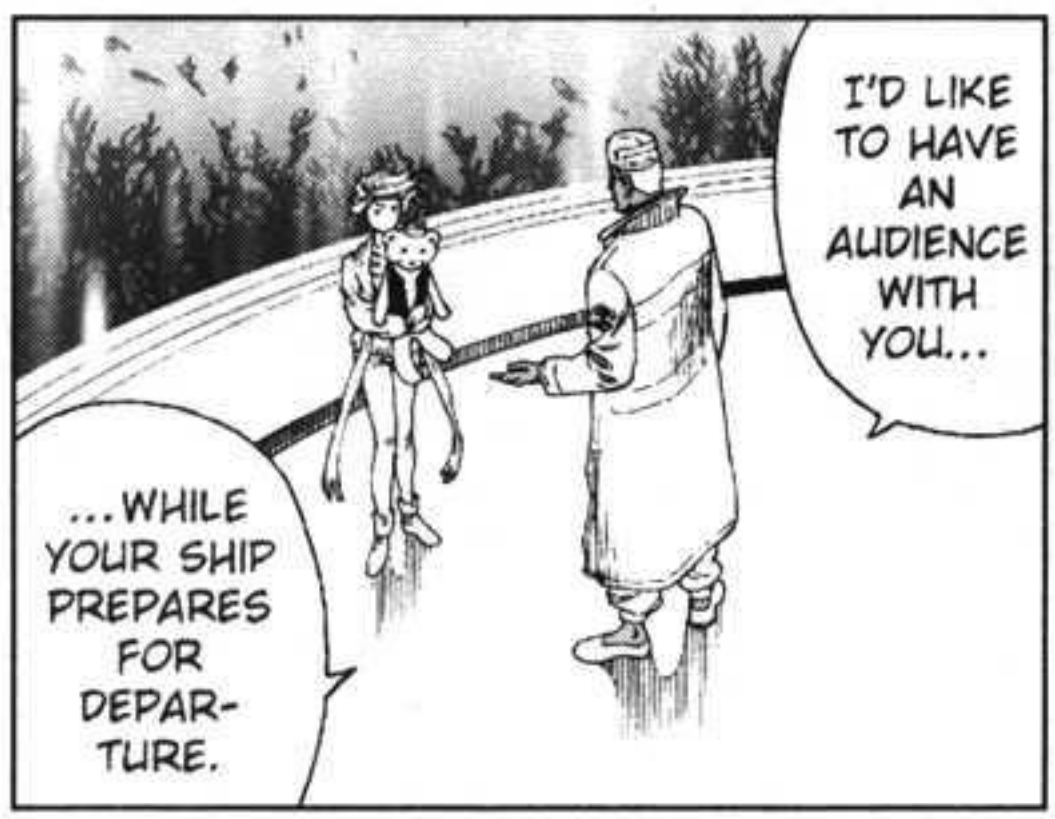




*Point L2: one of the five Lagrange points in the lunar system.
**NEW ORDER: LADDER's interplanetary keepers of the peace, under the command of Aga Mbadi.

DO YOU LIKE THE AQUARIUM?

OH, MY.


I'D LIKE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU...
...WHILE YOUR SHIP PREPARES FOR DEPAR-TURE.

?
He's not like the guy on TV!
DON'T BE RUDE, KÖNIG.

You don't mind if I come along?
AS YOU WISH.

I'VE GOT KÖNIG WITH ME.

QUEEN LIMEIRA...
DON'T WORRY, ZAZIE.

THE FINEST ATTRACTION OF THE KETHERES AQUARIUM...
...THE *ASTRO OCEAN.*

WOW...

IT'S SO... *DREAMY!*

...TO FORGE A *TRUE* PEACE AND ORDER REALITY.

I WANT TO PUT THIS WORLD RIGHT...

SHE'S SO CHILD-LIKE.

HEH...

...WILL YOU SPARE US SOME OF YOUR FISH?

OF COURSE.

...AND WE FINISH MAKING A NICE OCEAN OF OUR OWN...

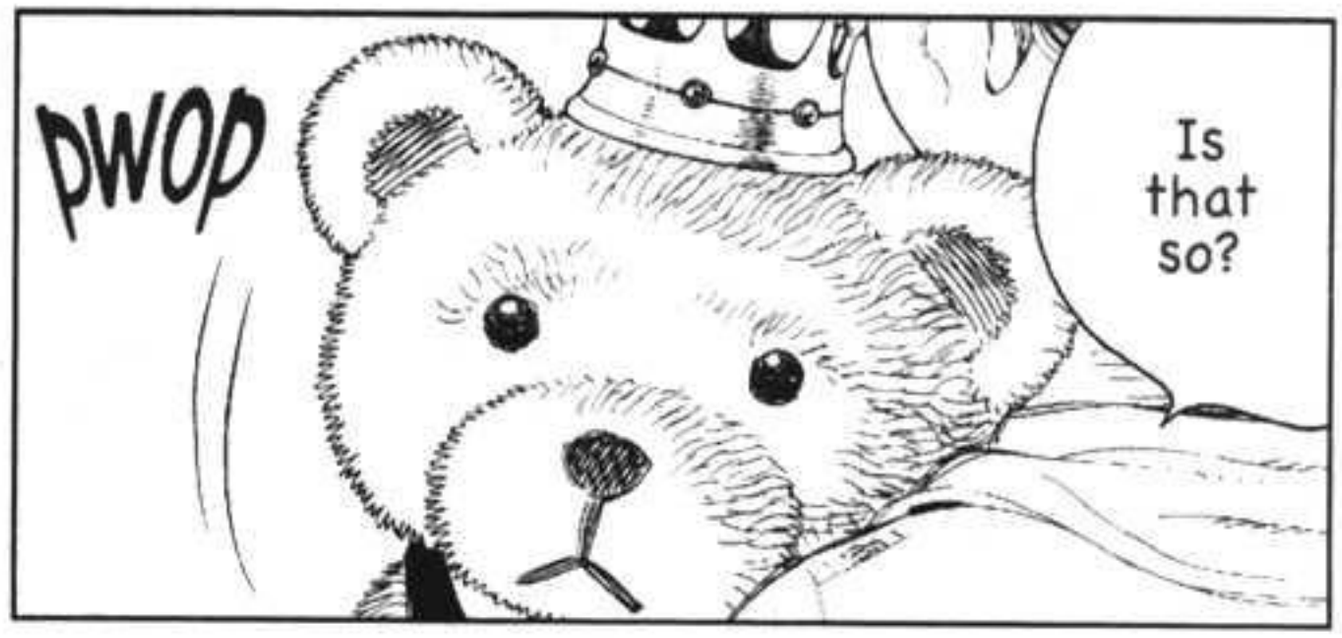
ONE DAY... WHEN PEACE RETURNS TO MARS...

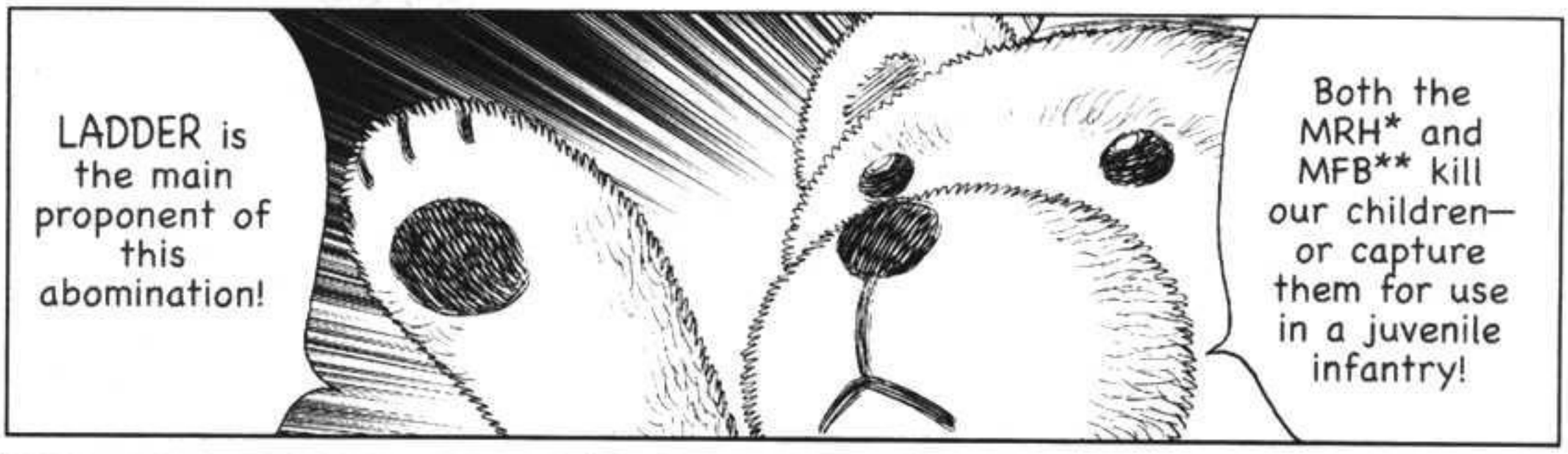
Sparkle!

I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT!

ALMOST MAKES ME FORGET WHO I AM...
SUCH A SWEET SMILE.

...BUT I'D LIKE THE KINGDOM PARLIAMENT TO BE THE ONE TO UNIFY MARS.
S-SNAP OUT OF IT!
I HAVEN'T MADE THIS PUBLIC YET...



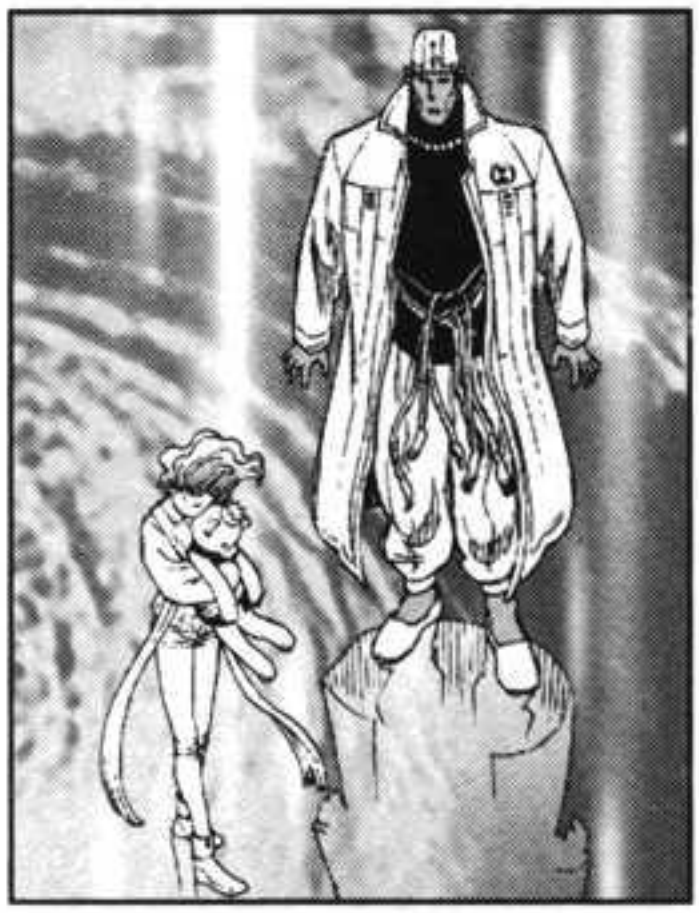


*MRH (Mars Republik Heer): Mars Republic Army
**MFB (Mars Front der Befreien): Mars Liberation Front

EVEN YOU...

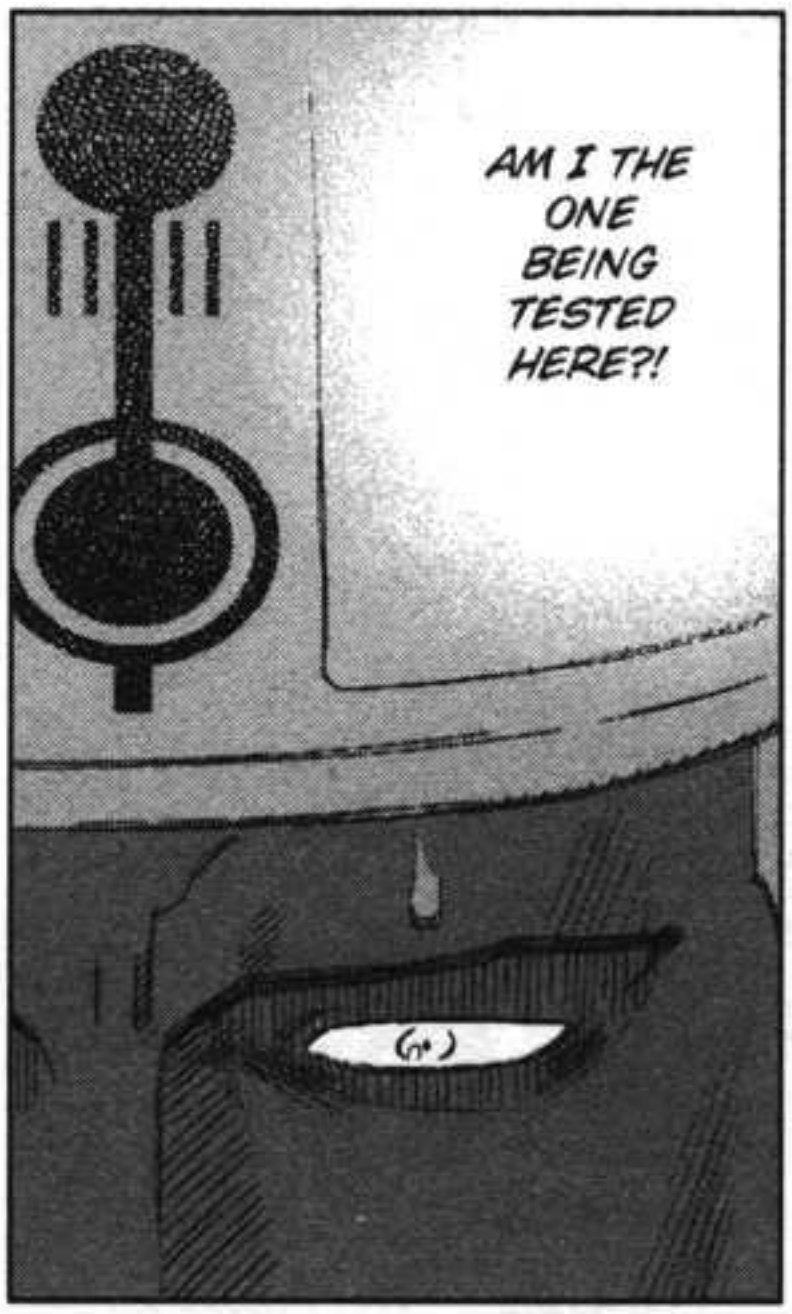
...MIGHT LIKE TO LIVE FOREVER, QUEEN LIMEIRA, IF YOUR FATHER WAS STILL ALIVE...

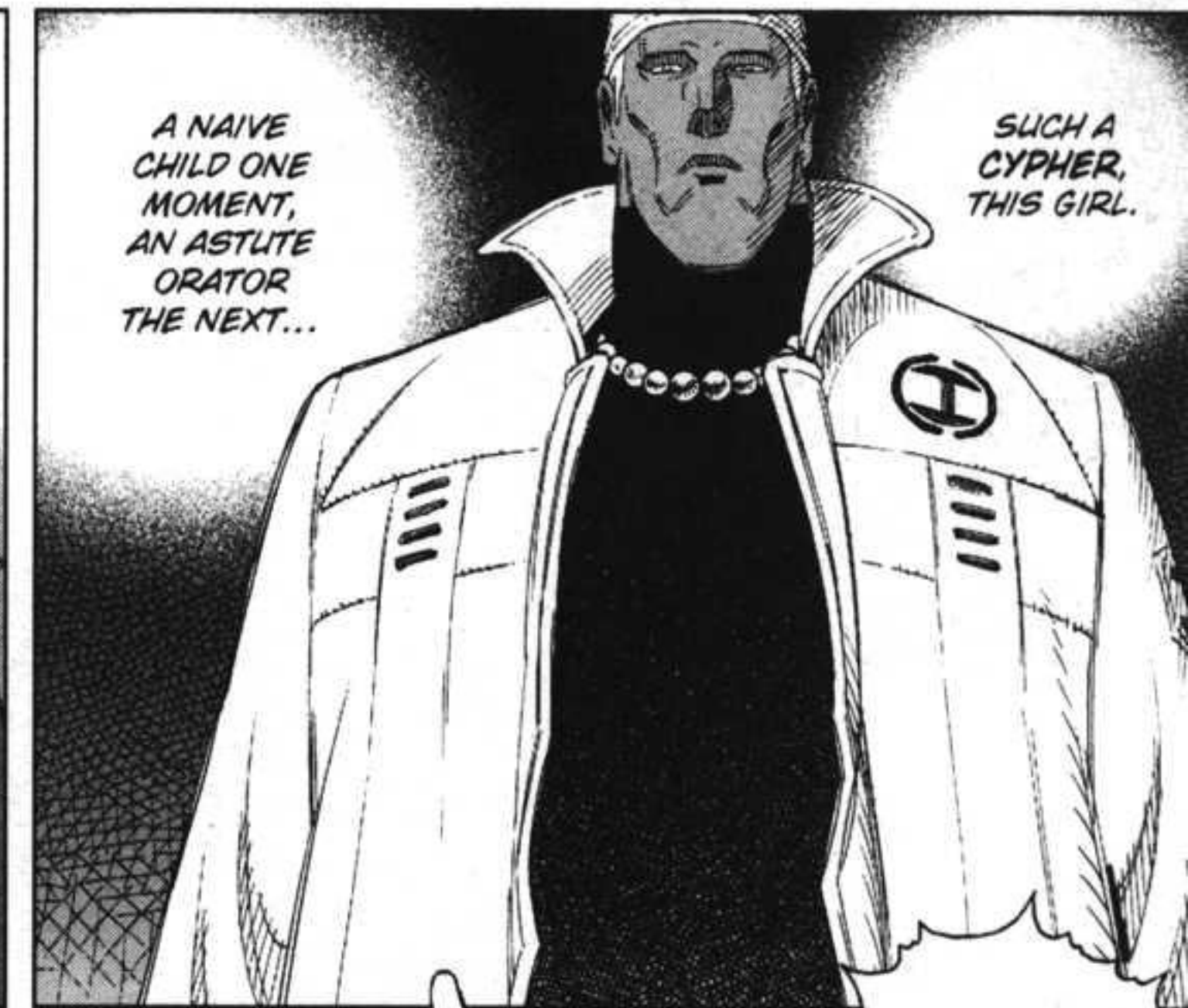
...TO FACE OLD AGE—AND EVEN ***DEATH?*** SHOULD WE ***FORCE*** THAT ON THEM?



...BUT MY FATHER LIVES ON... IN MY HEART.

IT MAY BE A CLICHÉ...





TV series "Space Mbadi"
Produced by Vesta Studios. 156 episodes (and a dozen TV specials) of this epic adventure aired between ES 543 and 556. Based on the 25-volume series "**Space Hero Mbadi**," by bestselling novelist (and Ceres resident) Oleg Zaccagni, the action-packed drama follows ORDER, the interplanetary investigative team, from its creation to its demise.

Captain Mbadi
Roy Nars

Revelle
W. Conant

1st Officer Chandler
V. Manabendra

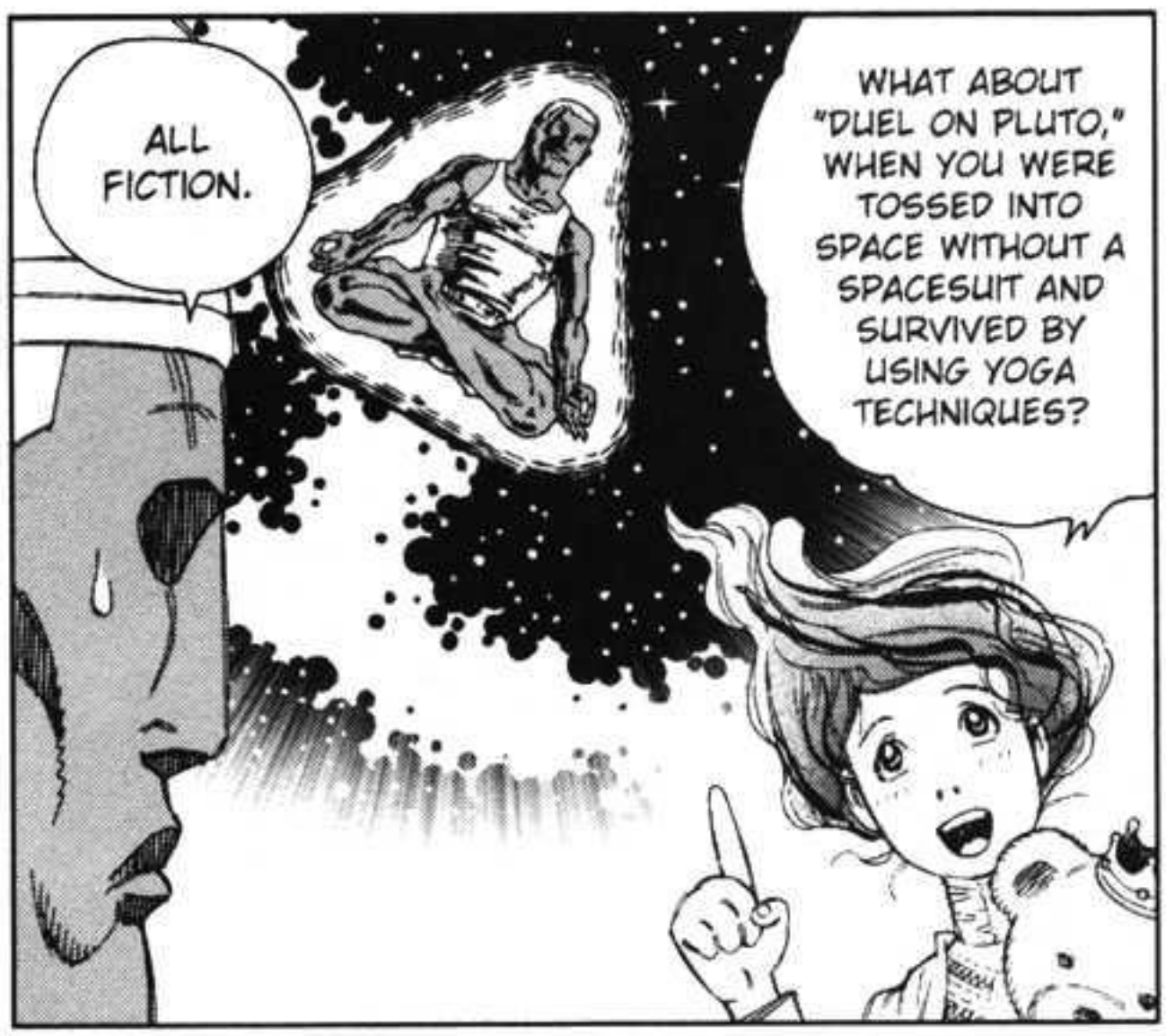
Lakshmi
N. Tripathi

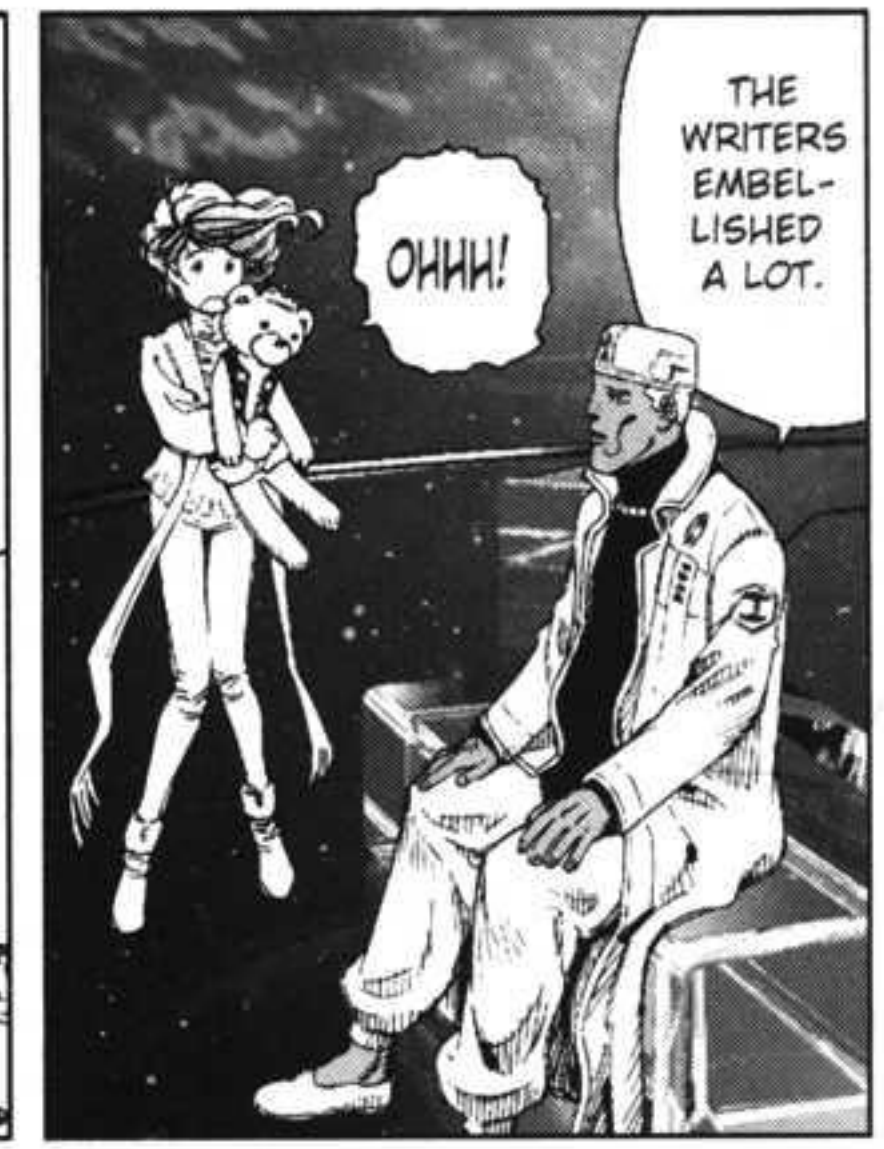
Dr. Maurois
J. Cugnot

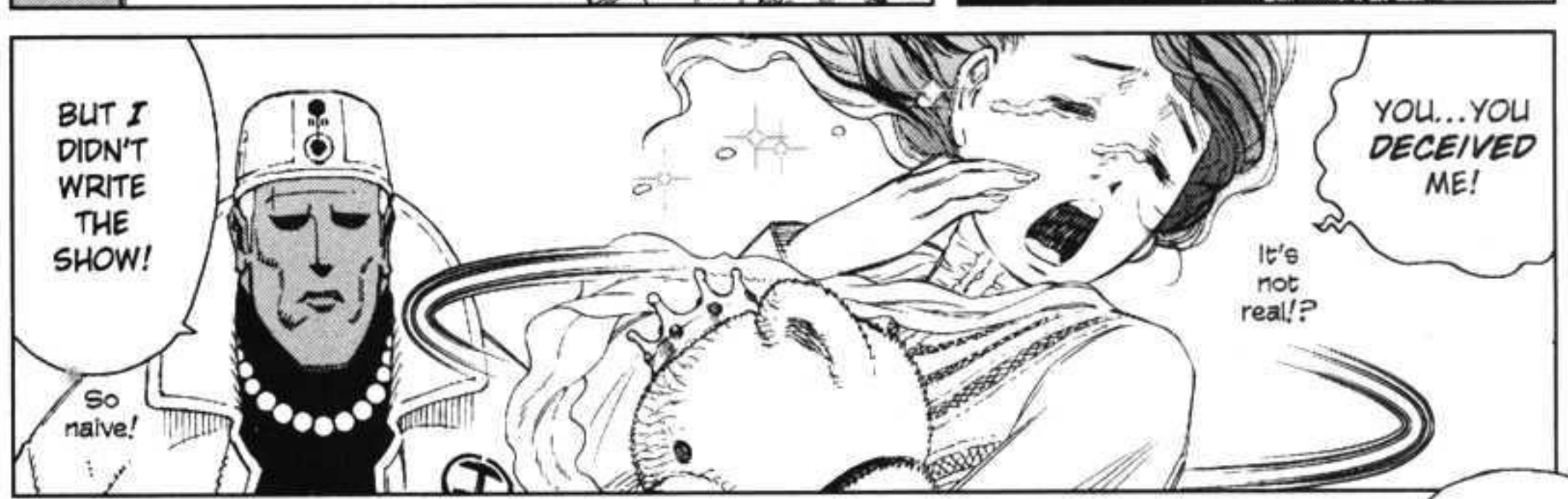
Yakovlev 44
(voice of) A. Volgin

Martian Warrior Menzel
G. Helder

Dr. Vares
K. T. Conrad


ALL FICTION.
WHAT ABOUT "DUEL ON PLUTO," WHEN YOU WERE TOSSED INTO SPACE WITHOUT A SPACESUIT AND SURVIVED BY USING YOGA TECHNIQUES?


OHHH!
THE WRITERS EMBEL-LISHED A LOT.


BUT I DIDN'T WRITE THE SHOW!
So naive!
It's not real!?
YOU...YOU DECEIVED ME!

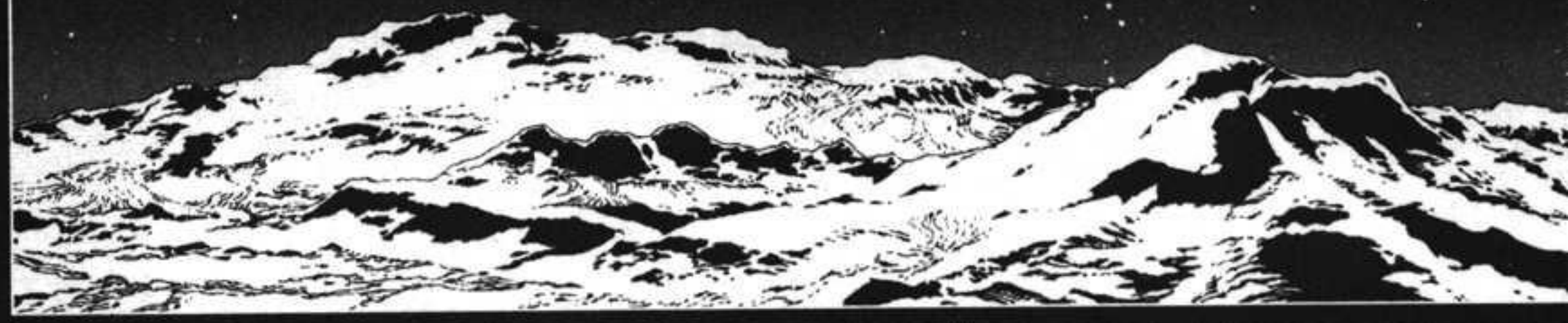
THAT'S FACT.
YES.

AND THE ROMANCE? LAKSHMI... WAS SHE REAL?

...but was vanquished on Pluto! The ORDER perished, save for Captain Aga Mbadi.
In 473, Dr. Vares committed unspeakable acts of nano-terrorism...
That's what the history books say...

AH, LAKSHMI ...
...THE ONLY WOMAN I EVER LOVED.
THE REALITY WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE NOVELS AND THE TV SERIES.

CHARON, THE MOON OF PLUTO, HUNG OVER US AS IF IT COULD DROP FROM THE SKY AT ANY MOMENT.



...IN DRIFTS OF SILENT METHANE SNOW.

WE WERE LEFT, JUST THE TWO OF US, IN THE -230 C° COLD...

I HAD TO GAMBLE ON VARES SENDING SOMEONE TO CONFIRM OUR DEATHS.

ALL THE REST OF MY CREW WERE KILLED.

...AND USED YOGA TECHNIQUES TO LOWER MY HEART RATE AND RESPIRATION TO ENTER A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

I CUT ALL POWER TO OUR SPACESUITS EXCEPT FOR MINIMAL HEAT TO CONSERVE BATTERY POWER...

BUT LAKSHMI...SHE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO INDUCE SUCH A CONTROLLED COMA.

SO COLD...

...SO VERY COLD...

I'LL SAVE YOU.

...I LIED TO HER.

AND SO I...

REST, LAKSHMI. SLEEP...

I LIED TO HER.

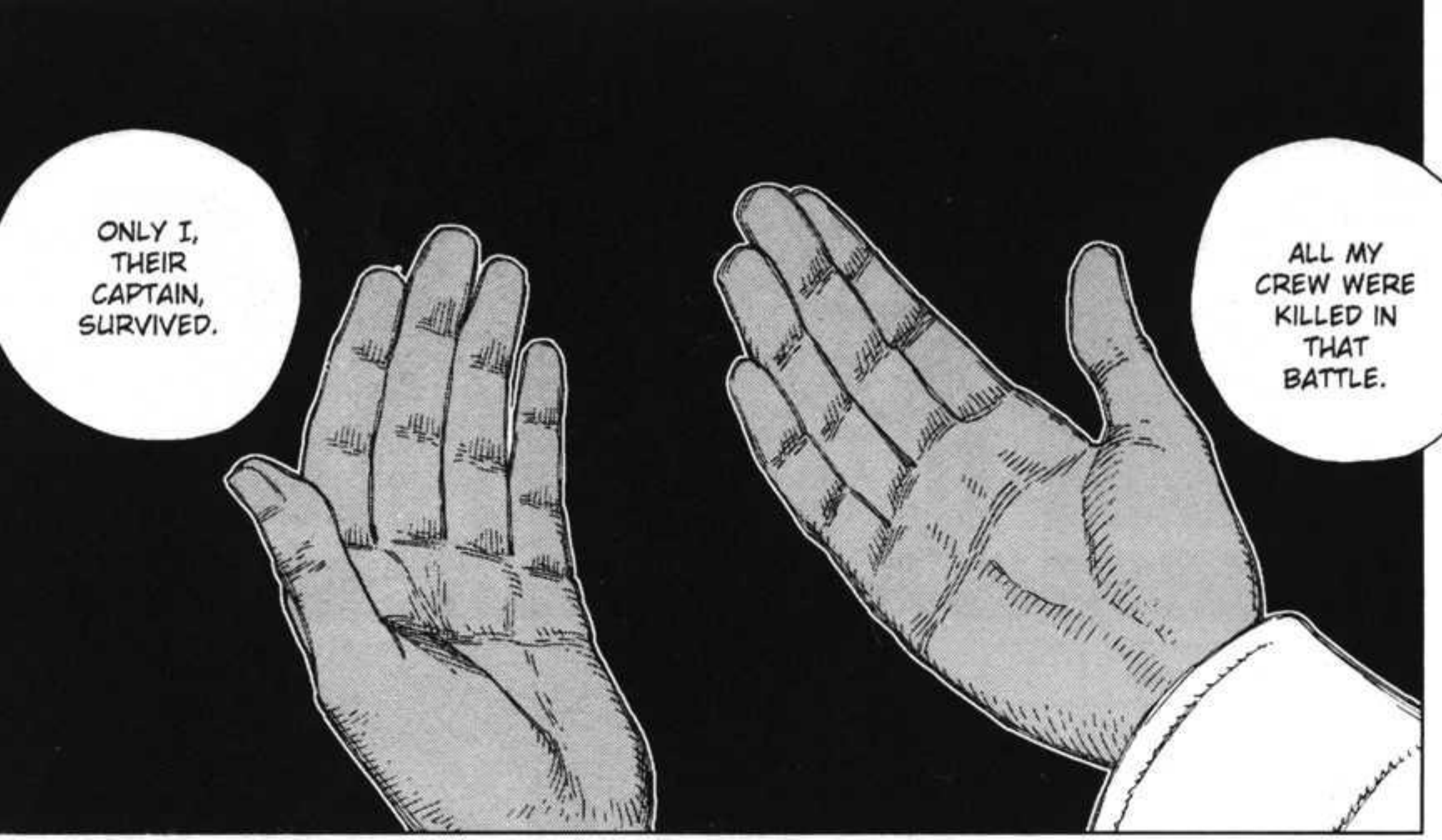
SHE TRUSTED ME ABSOLUTELY. DRIFTED OFF TO SLEEP AS GENTLY AS A BABY.

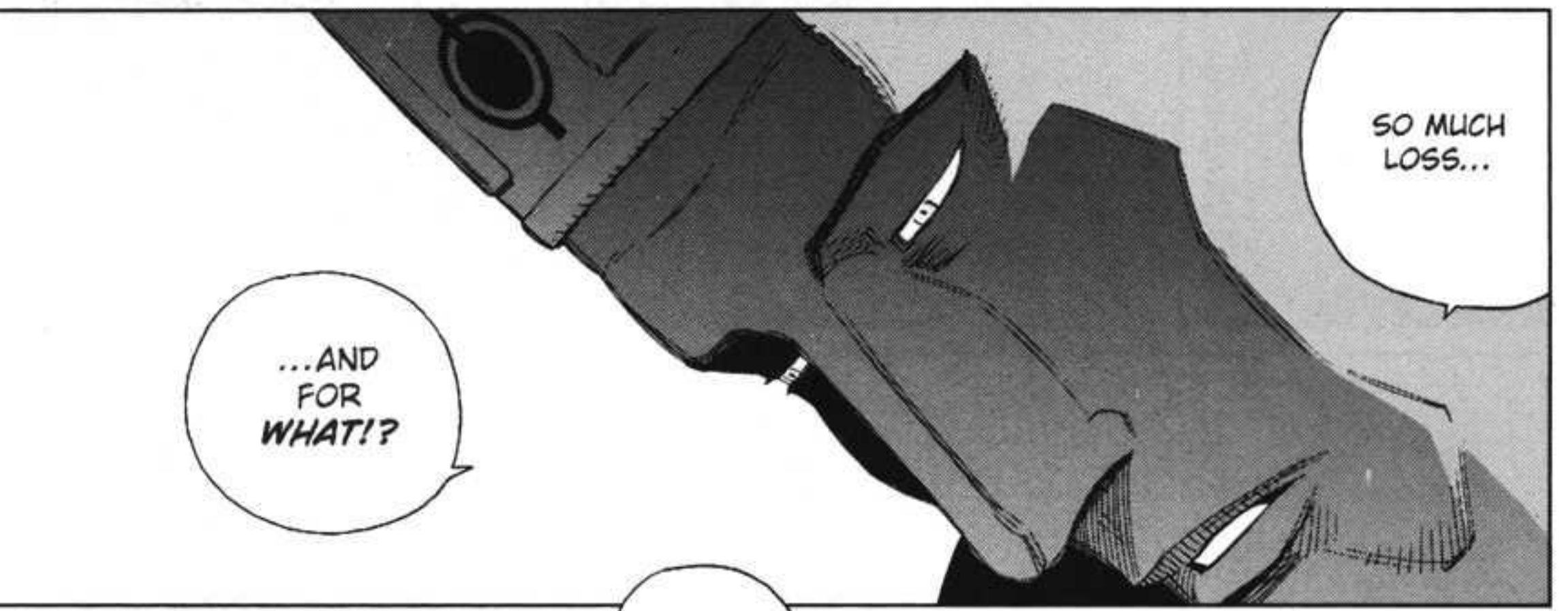
THE SMALLEST AGITATION IN MY BREATHING WOULD HAVE MEANT FAILURE... DEATH.

...AS THE WARMTH SLOWLY FADED FROM LAKSHMI'S BODY...

THAT DAY...

...THE MAN WHO LOVED HER...FELT HIS OWN SOUL GO COLD AND DIE.


ONLY I, THEIR CAPTAIN, SURVIVED.
ALL MY CREW WERE KILLED IN THAT BATTLE.

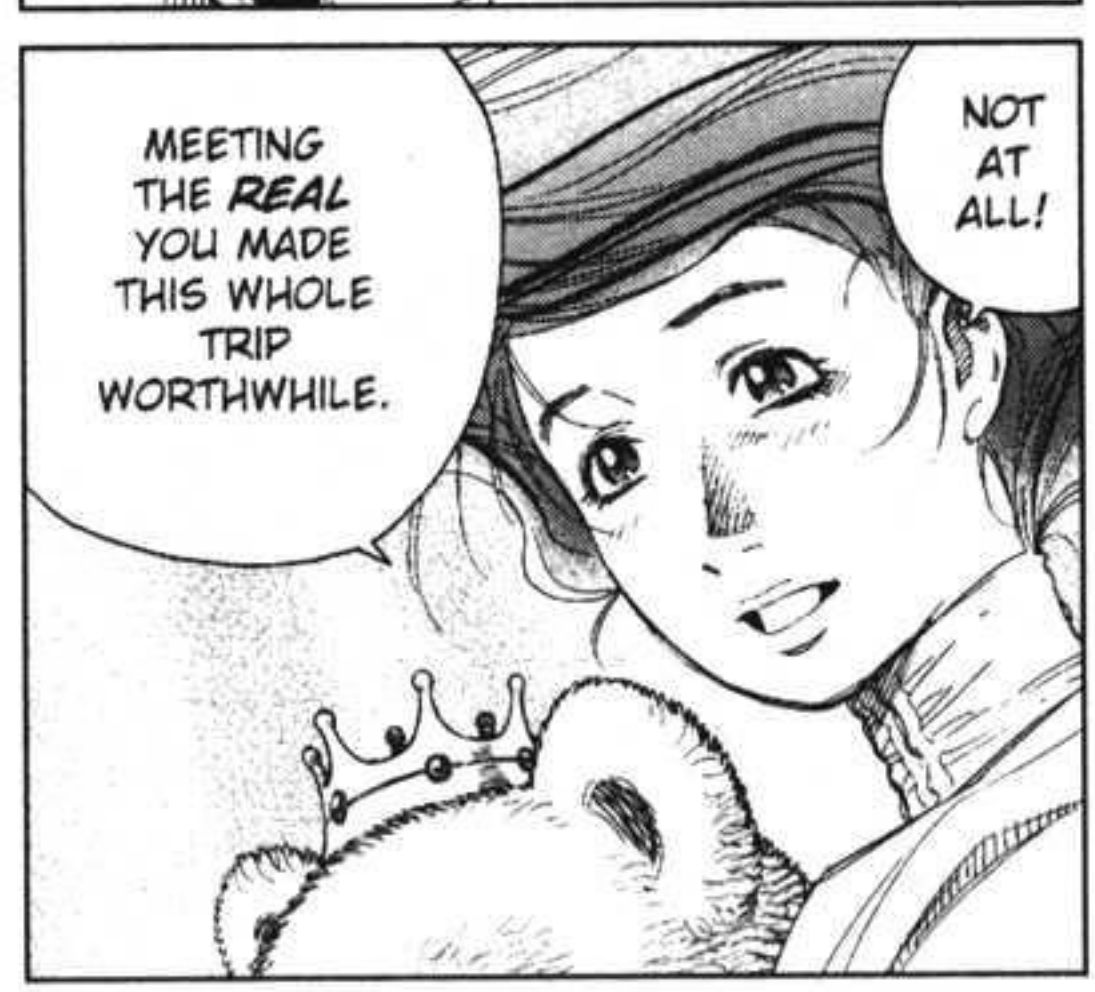

SO MUCH LOSS...
...AND FOR *WHAT!?*

EVERY CHOICE WAS THE RIGHT ONE!
I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO... WITH *NO REGRETS!*
TO BRING ORDER TO THE WORLD!

THOSE DAYS ARE LONG PAST.

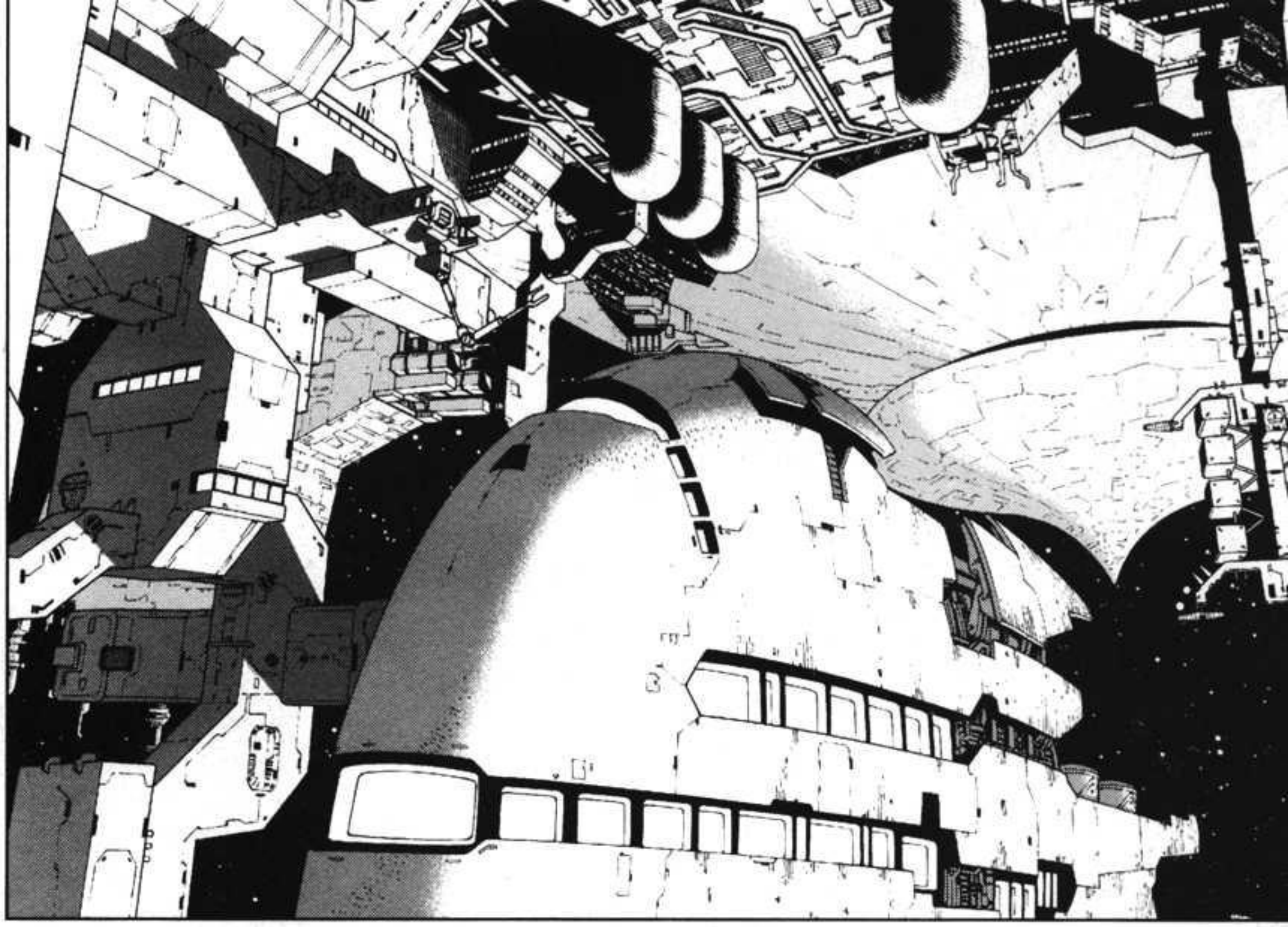
I DIDN'T MEAN TO OPEN SUCH WOUNDS!
sob
I'M SO SORRY!
sob
Runny makeup, Limeira.

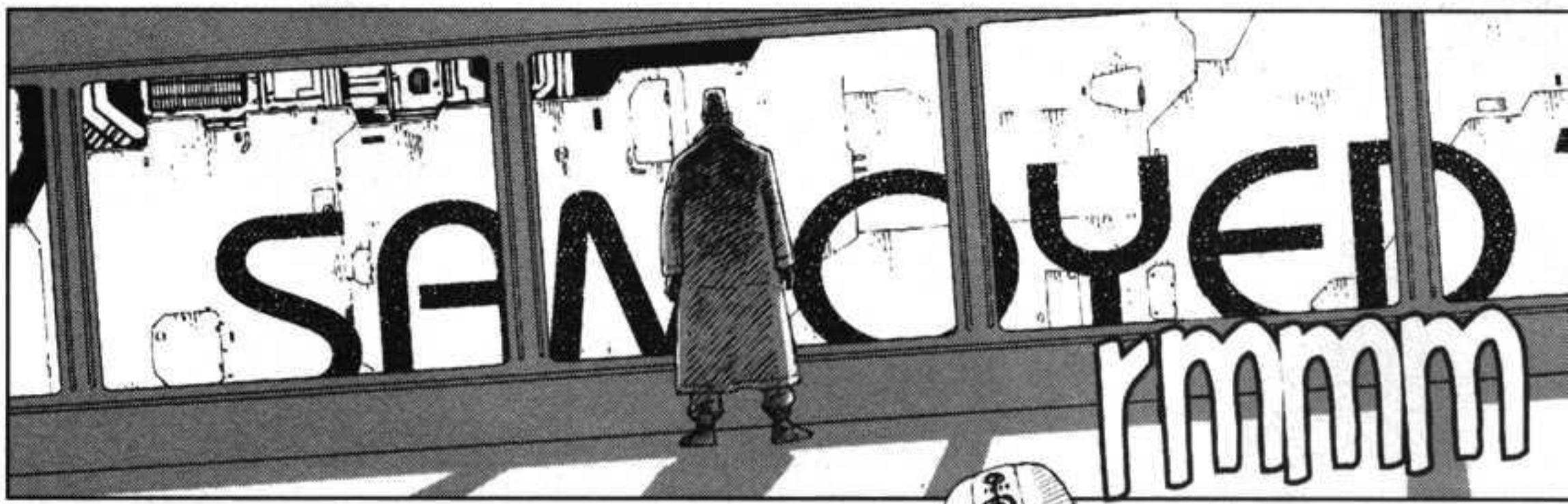
I'M NOT THE HERO FROM TV... SORRY TO LET YOU DOWN.


MEETING THE *REAL* YOU MADE THIS WHOLE TRIP WORTHWHILE.
NOT AT ALL!

STRANGE. I'VE NEVER TOLD A SOUL... SO WHY *YOU?*
I DON'T SPEAK OF IT.

...BEFORE YOU SAVE THE WORLD...
BUT...
...YOU SHOULD SAVE YOURSELF.



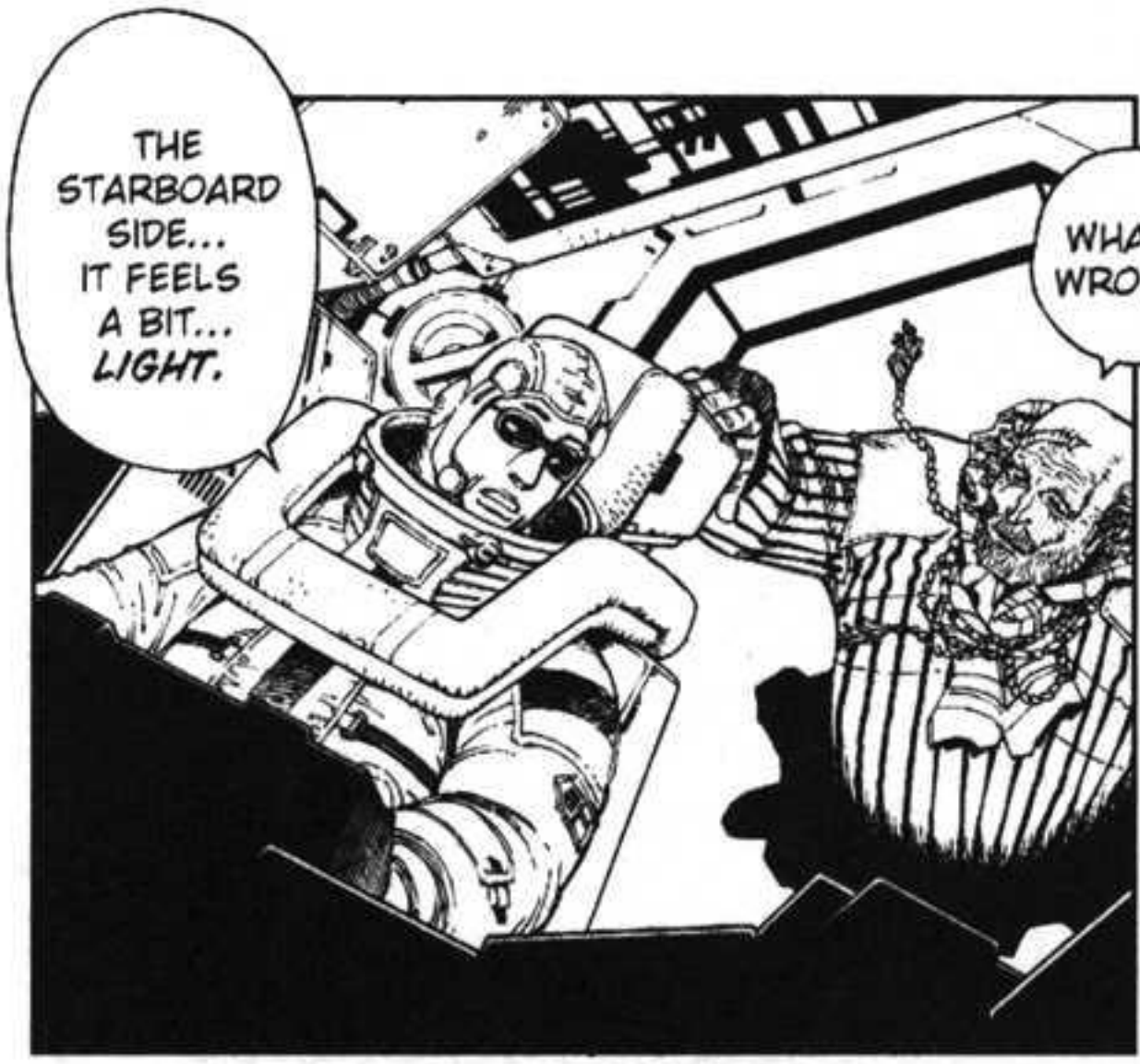

SEMOLYED
rmmm

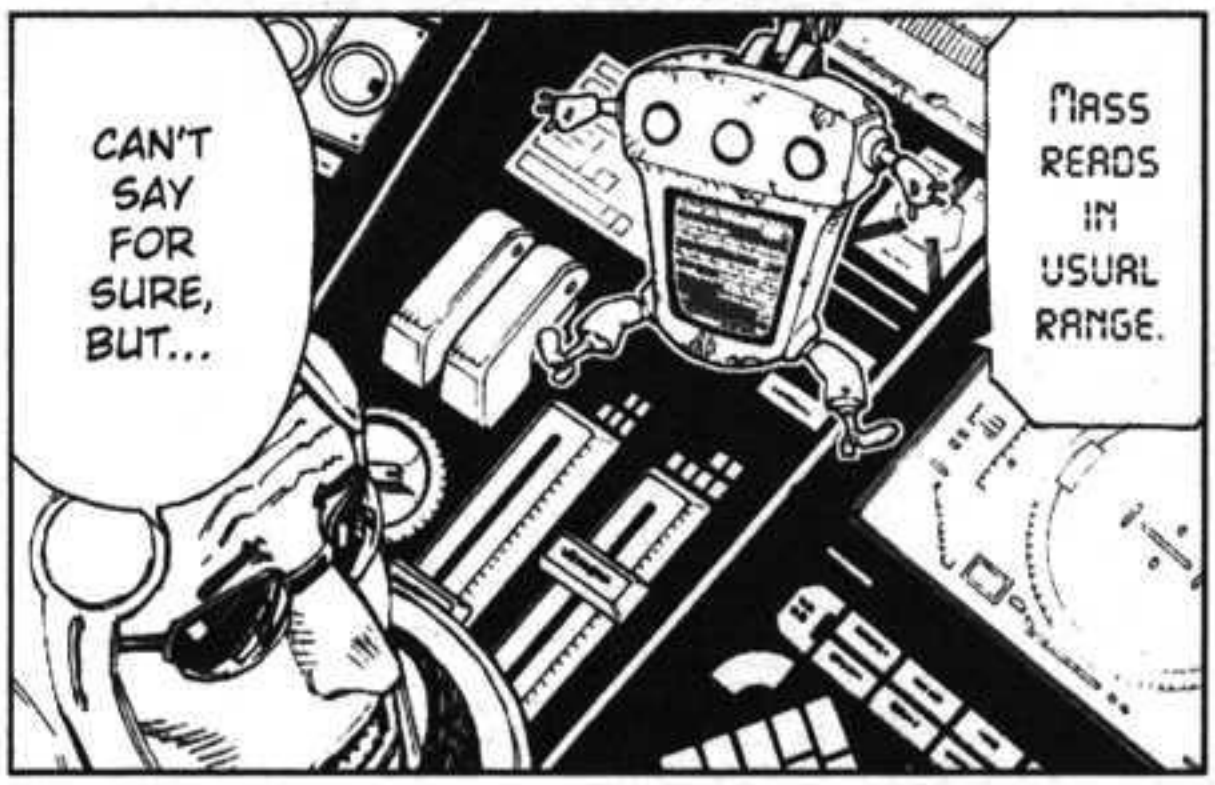
I WANT TO TELL HER...
...TO SHOUT IT OUT!

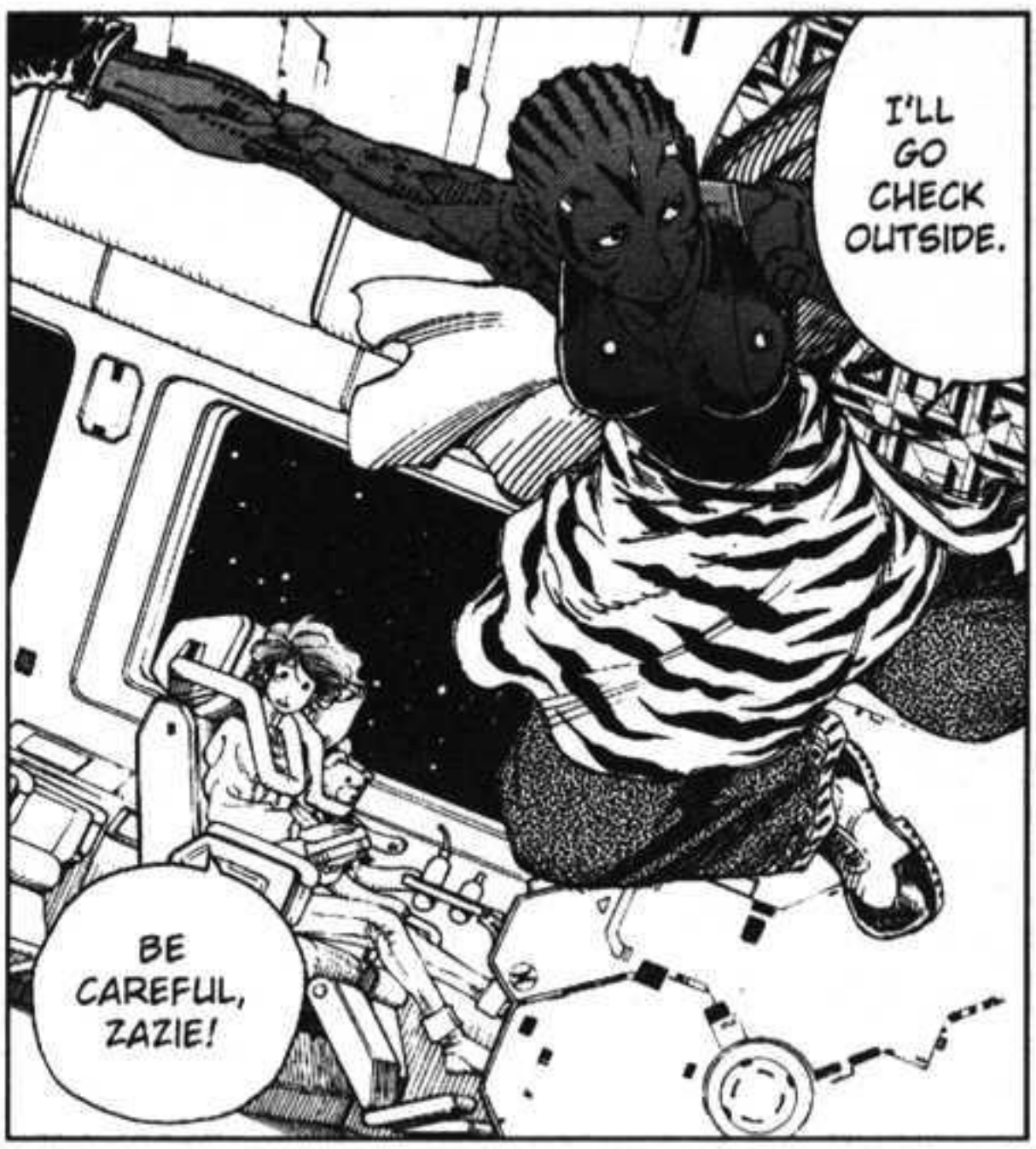
...THIS WEIGHT... ON MY HEART?!
WHAT IS THIS...

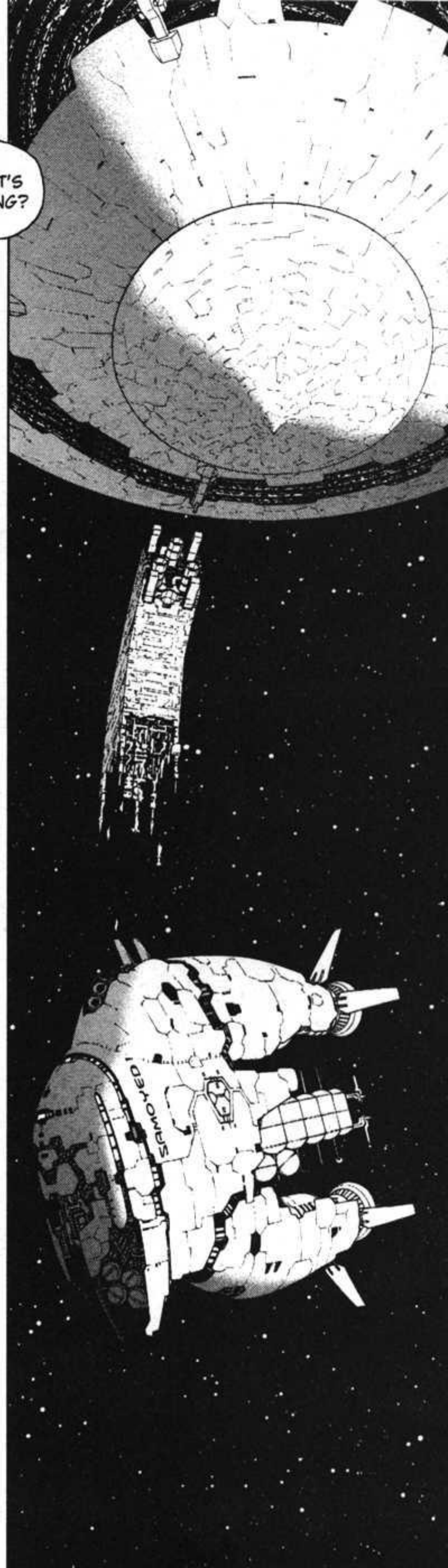
QUEEN LIMEIRA! IT WAS I...

I WAS THE ONE WHO ORDERED YOUR FATHER'S ASSAS-SINATION!


THE STARBOARD SIDE... IT FEELS A BIT... *LIGHT.*
WHAT'S WRONG?


CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT...
MASS READS IN USUAL RANGE.


I'LL GO CHECK OUTSIDE.
BE CAREFUL, ZAZIE!


SAMOYED

foom

foom

SOMEONE'S COMING TO CHECK ON THINGS.
UH-OH.

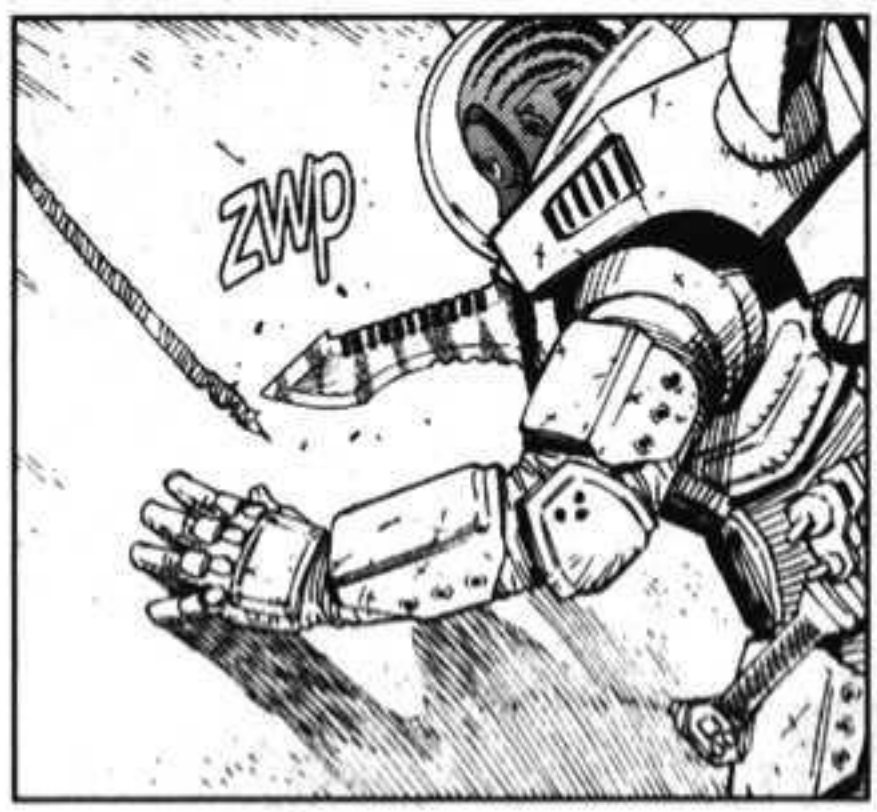
shp

YOU TOLD ME YOU HACKED THE AI SENSORS!
I CAN FOOL *MACHINES*, BUT HUMAN INTUITION'S A WHOLE 'NUTHER MATTER!

kng
tnk
tonk!
skfak...
skfk

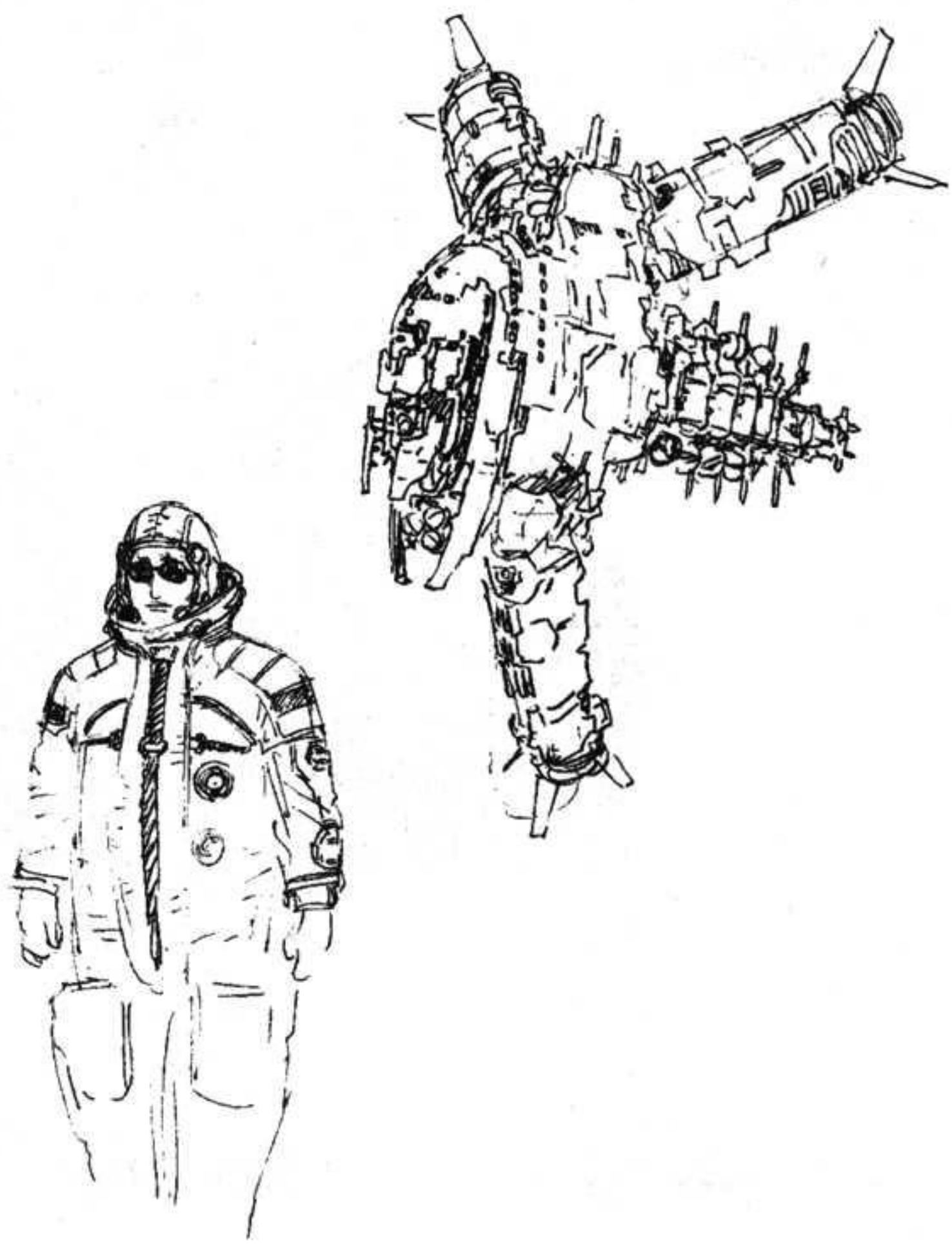
Boom
Boom
Boom
Boom

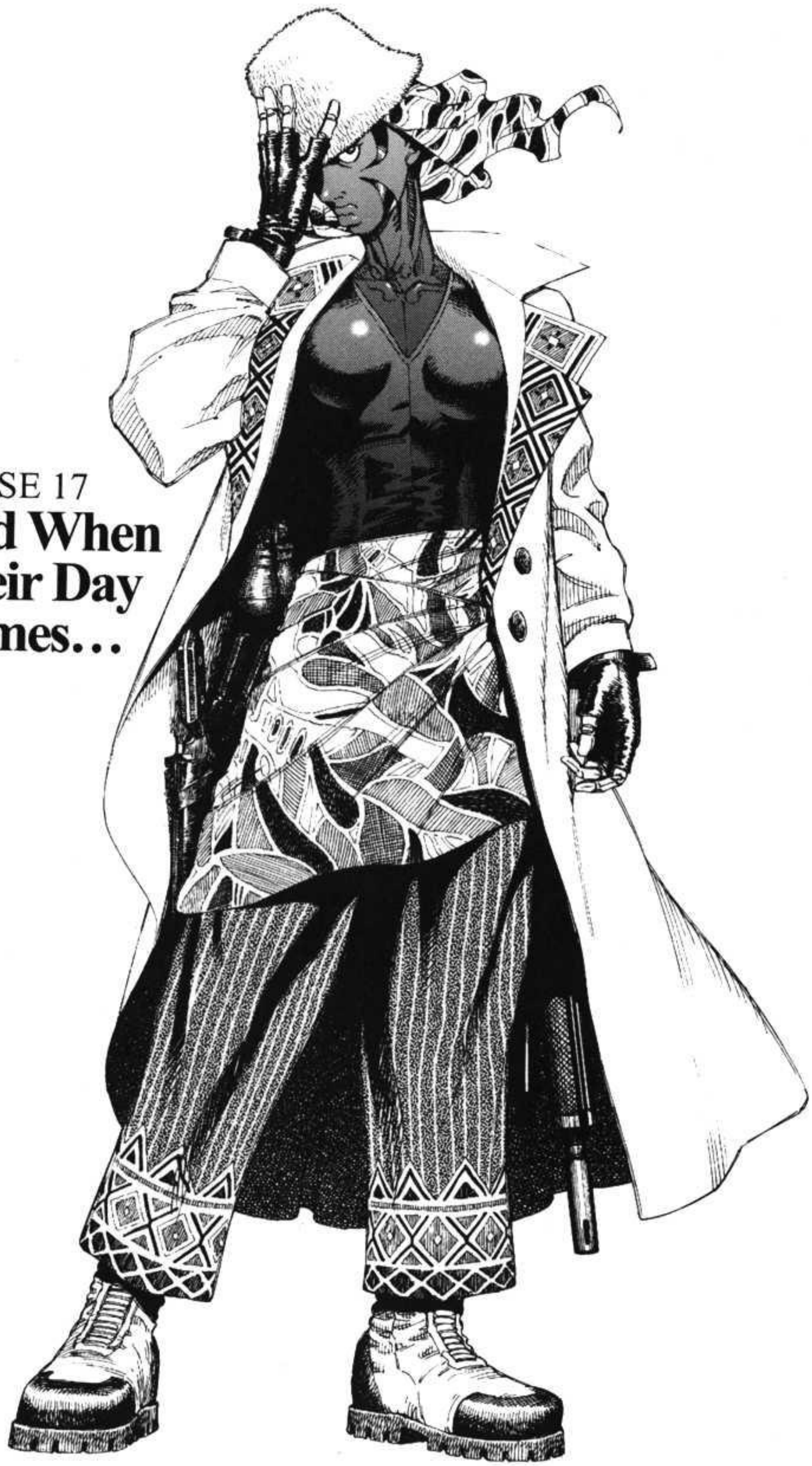
phew!


zwp

Wam
OW!
OWWWWW!
PING!
SLOP
skrash

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
LOOKS LIKE I'VE CAUGHT US SOME STOWAWAYS!





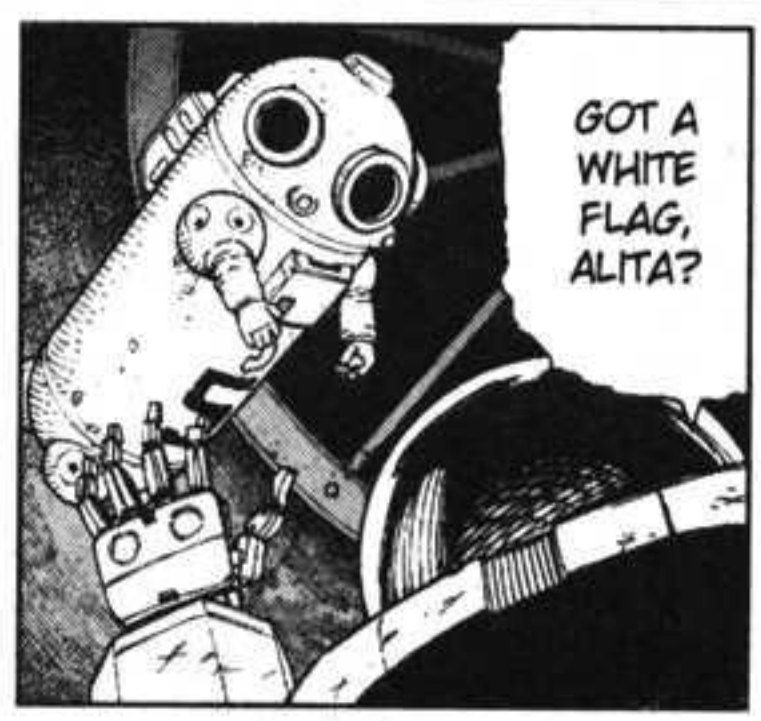
PHASE 17

And When Their Day Comes...

GAAH!
fZZZ
URK!
ZZZiP
EMERGENCY! SUIT PRESSURE AND TEMP DROPPING FAST!
GYAH!
WE'RE IN DEEP DOO-DOO...
OF COURSE I'M NOT OKAY, DAMMIT...
PRESSURE'S STABLE NOW. YOU OKAY, BOSS?
HFF!
UFF!
OUCH...

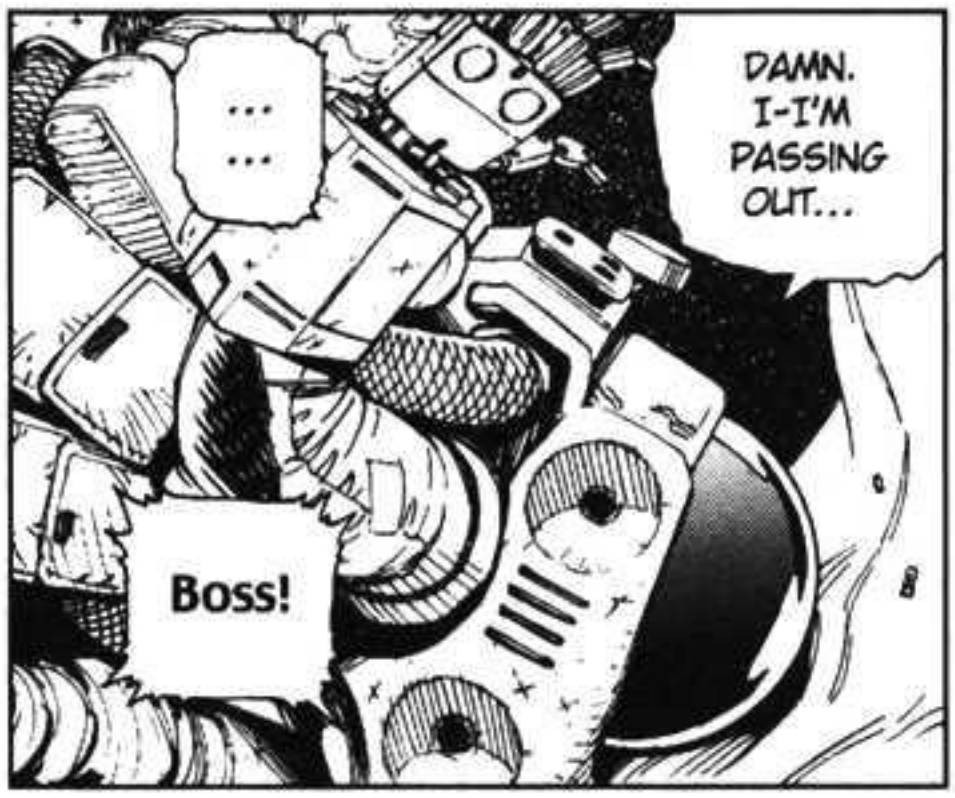
I'LL DISPOSE OF THEM NOW.

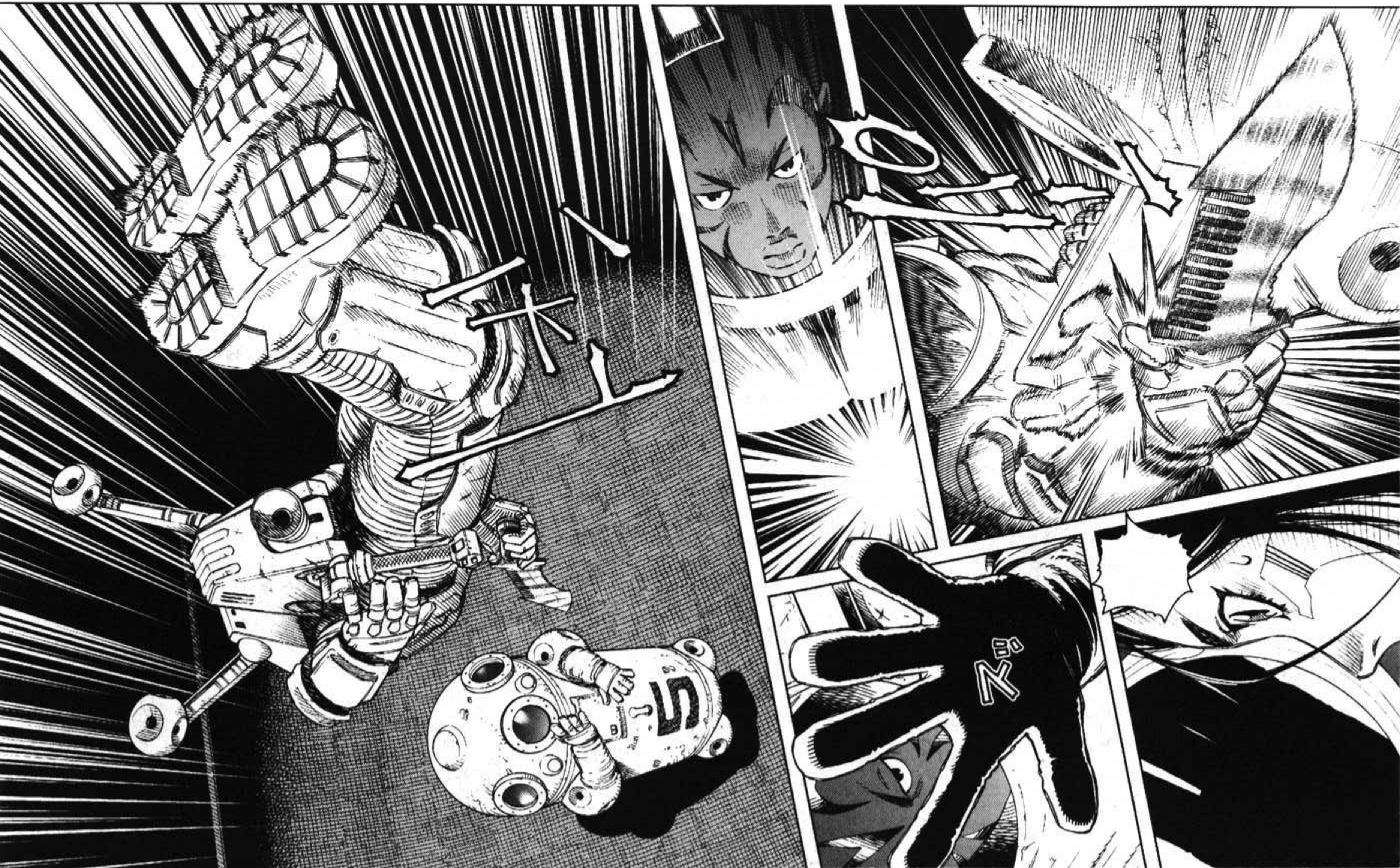
PROBLEM SOLVED...



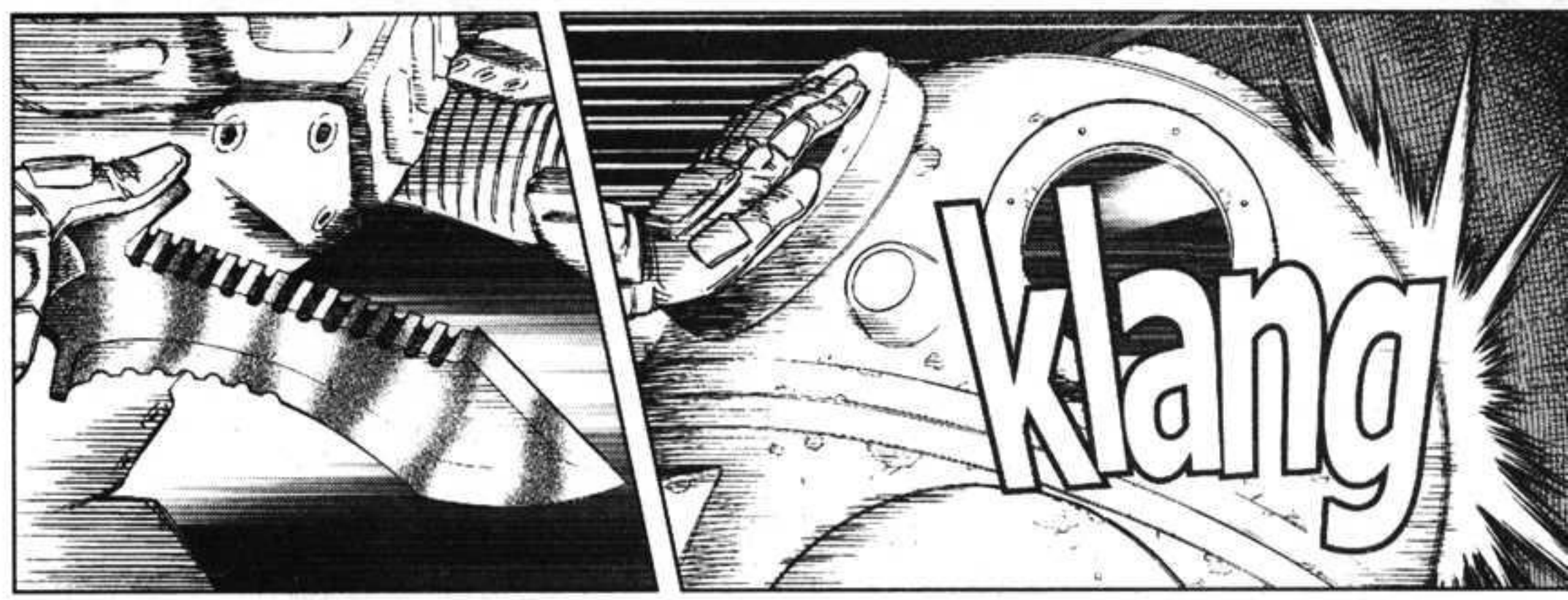
BUT TO FIGHT LIKE THAT...

...AGAINST HER?




ドン
ドン
ドン
ボン

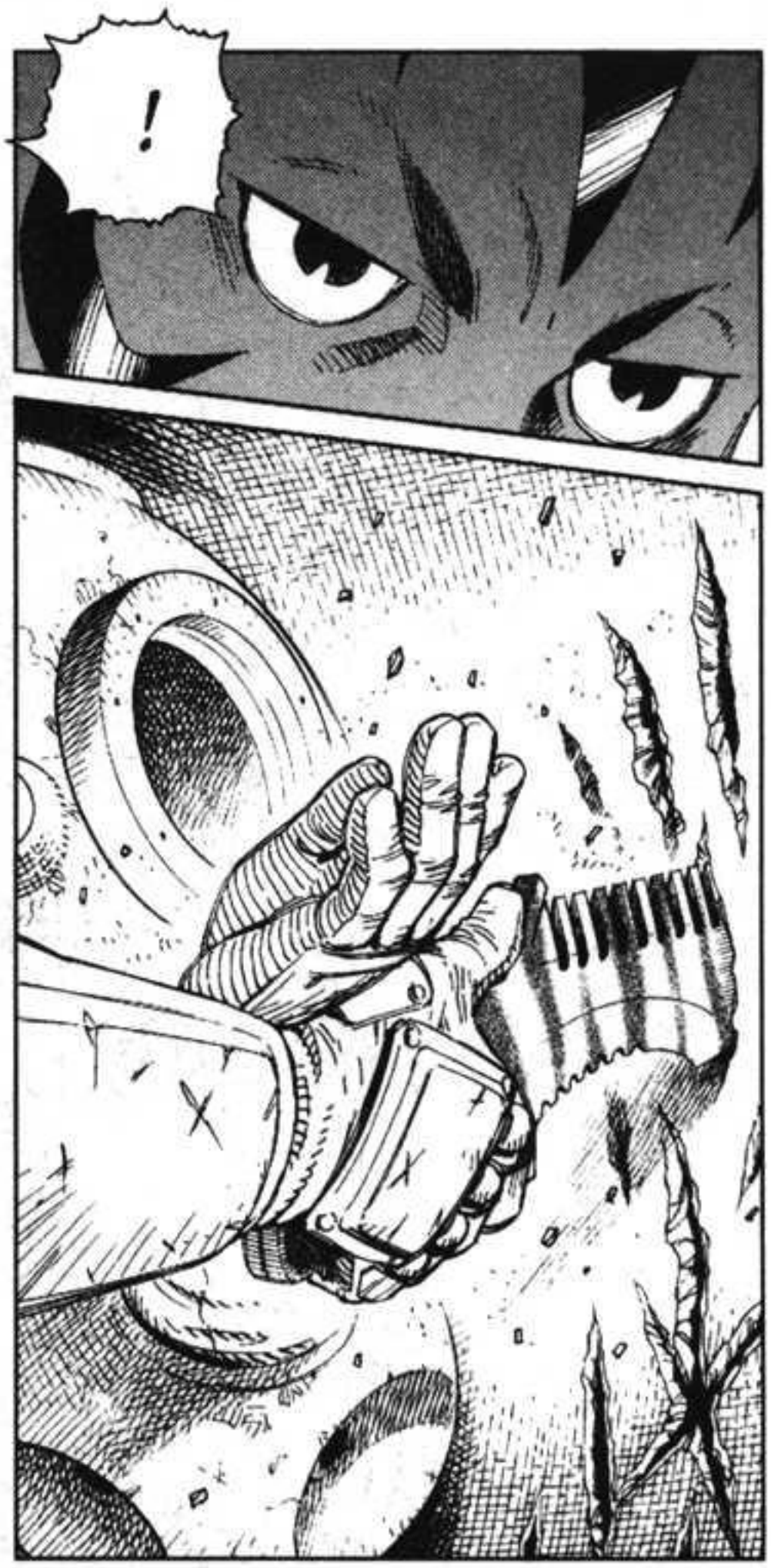
bash


klang

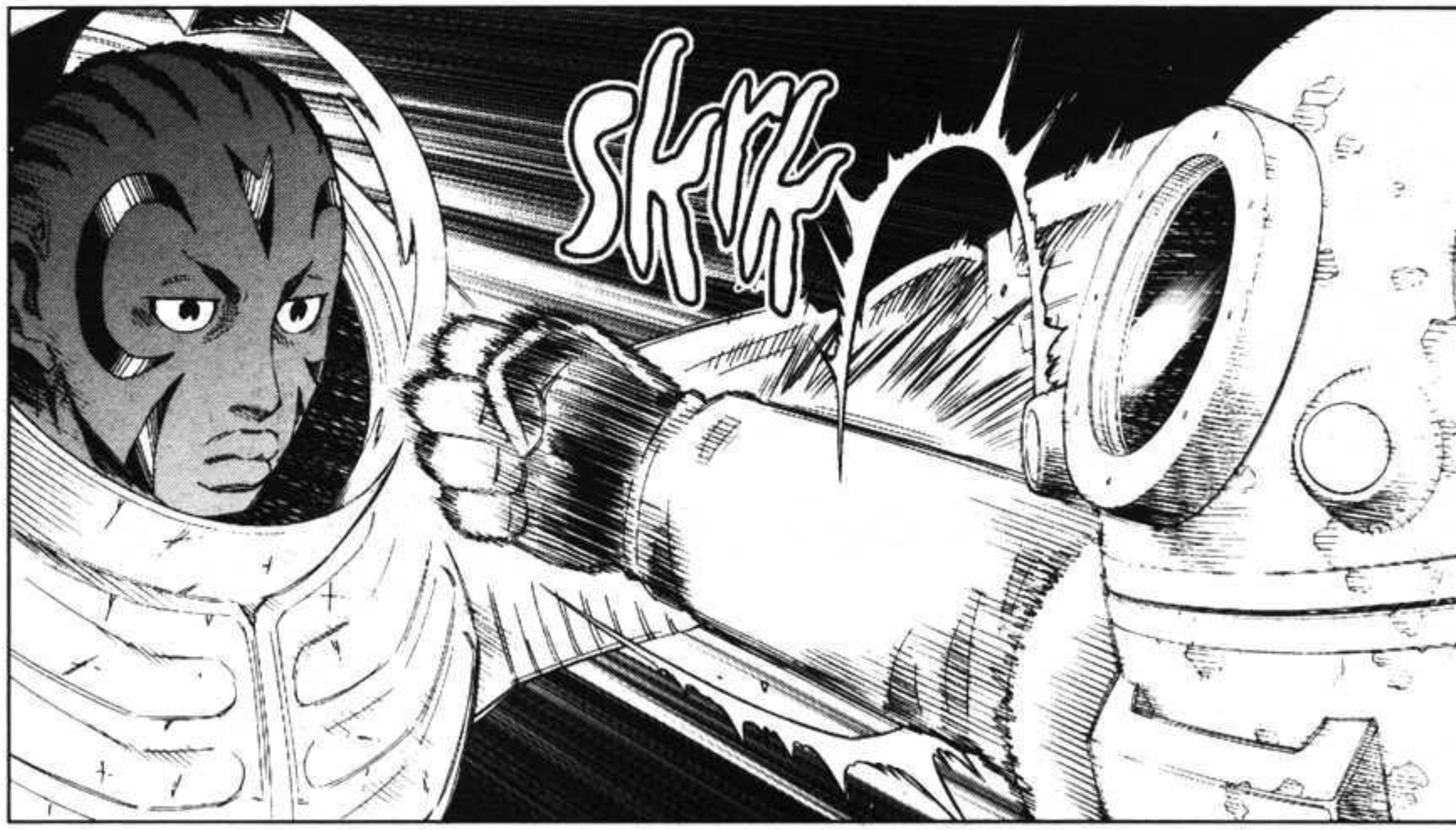
BAM
bla
bam

SHE DEFLECTED MY KNIFE— WITH ONE HAND?!

BUT I BLOCKED HER FIELD OF VISION! HOW—?!



...BUT THIS IS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL!
NOTHING AGAINST YOU...


SKRR

tnk

?!

boing

wsh fwssh

foom

AS I HOPED.

HER TRAINING'S ALL BEEN GRAVITY-BOUND. OUT HERE, SHE'S AN AMATEUR...

OH, YEAH... IN A ZERO GRAVITY STATE, THERE'S NO RESISTANCE! THE LAWS OF ACTION AND REACTION TRANSLATE DIRECTLY...

fsh

N-NO EFFECT AT ALL?!

fsh

BUT I KNOW THIS!

DAMN! IT WAS SO LONG AGO...

WIP

WE'LL START WITH THE *BASICS!*

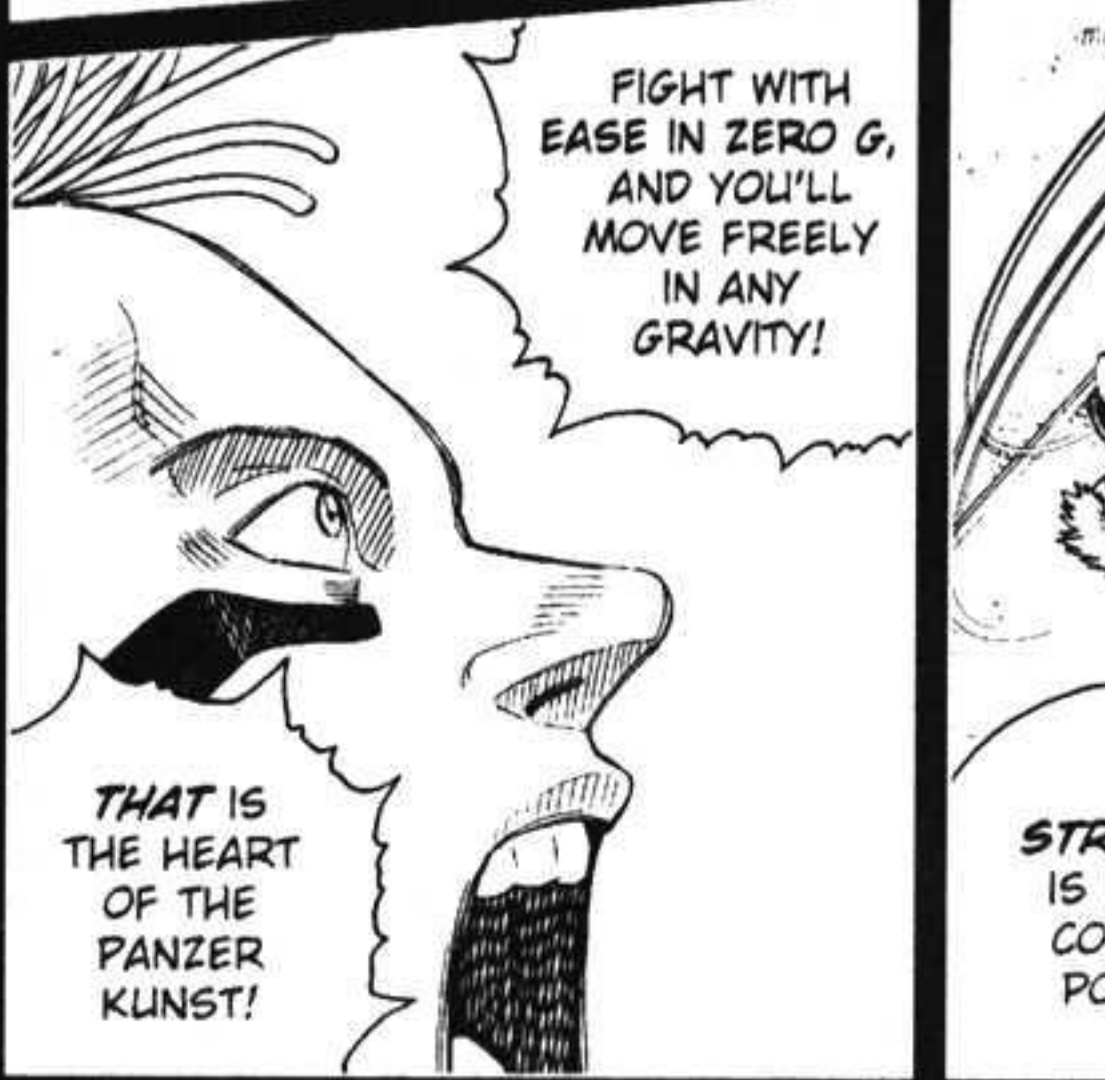
NOW LISTEN UP!

ALL PANZER KUNST BEGINS AT ZERO GRAVITY!
TODAY WE'LL BE PRACTICING STRIKES AND THRUSTS.

WATCH!
SEIZE A PART OF THE BODY, *THEN* STRIKE!
wud

IF THEY GRAB *YOU*...
swsh

TARGET THEIR CENTER OF GRAVITY...
...BUT DON'T BECOME PREDICT-ABLE.


FIGHT WITH EASE IN ZERO G, AND YOU'LL MOVE FREELY IN ANY GRAVITY!
THAT IS THE HEART OF THE PANZER KUNST!

twsh
...THROW THEM OFF BALANCE!
STRATEGY IS IN THE CONTACT POINTS.

kaf
sof

slam
skreek

ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE *IM-PROVED!*
DIDN'T THINK SHE'D GIVE ME A HARD TIME!

tup

shoom
shoom

YOU'RE GOOD.

WHAT DOG ARE YOU?

?!

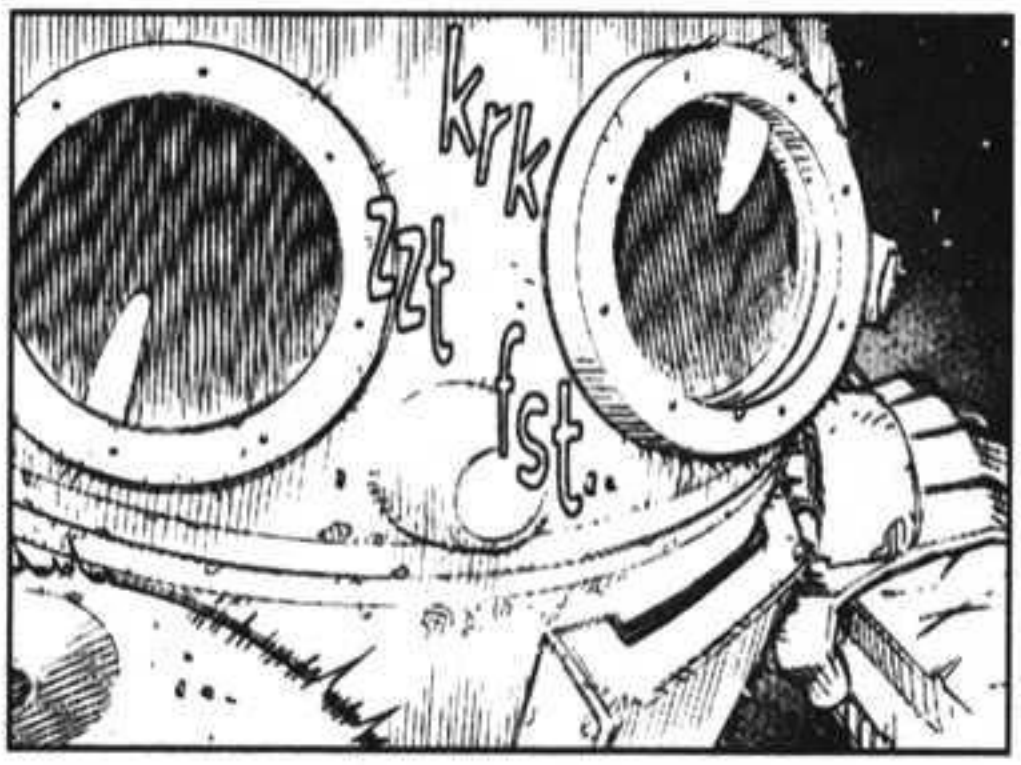
PANZER KUNST.

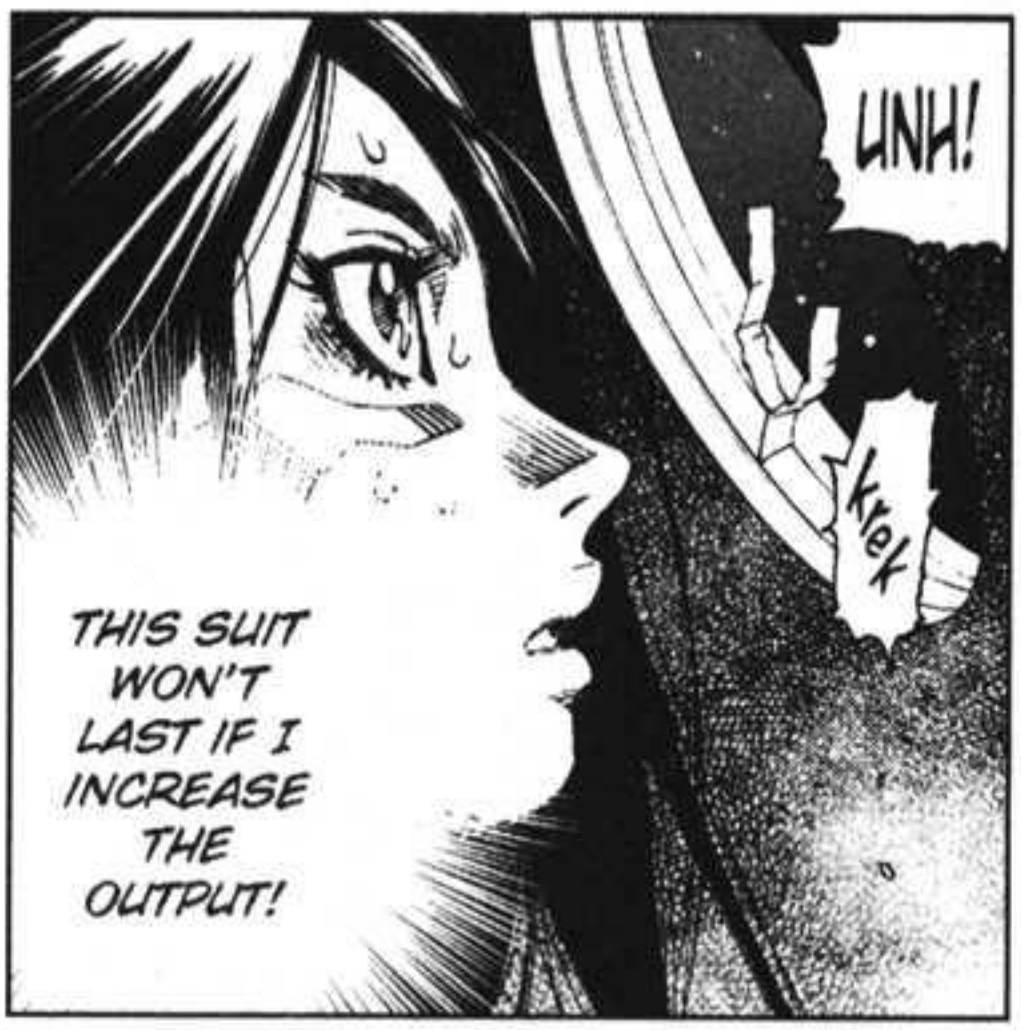
ZWnnm

HERTZA HAEON!

W-
WHAT?!
NEGATING MY HERTZA HAEON WITH A VIBRATION OF THE SAME WAVELENGTH ...!

WWWWWW


krk
zzt
fst


UNH!
krek
THIS SUIT WON'T LAST IF I INCREASE THE OUTPUT!

WHY SO SHOCKED?
OSCILLATION PUNCHES AREN'T SO RARE ANYMORE.

AND YOU CLAIM TO BE A STUDENT OF THE FABLED MARTIAN ART!

zish

foomf

SOME NERVE!

fshh

Shoom

Kahaa

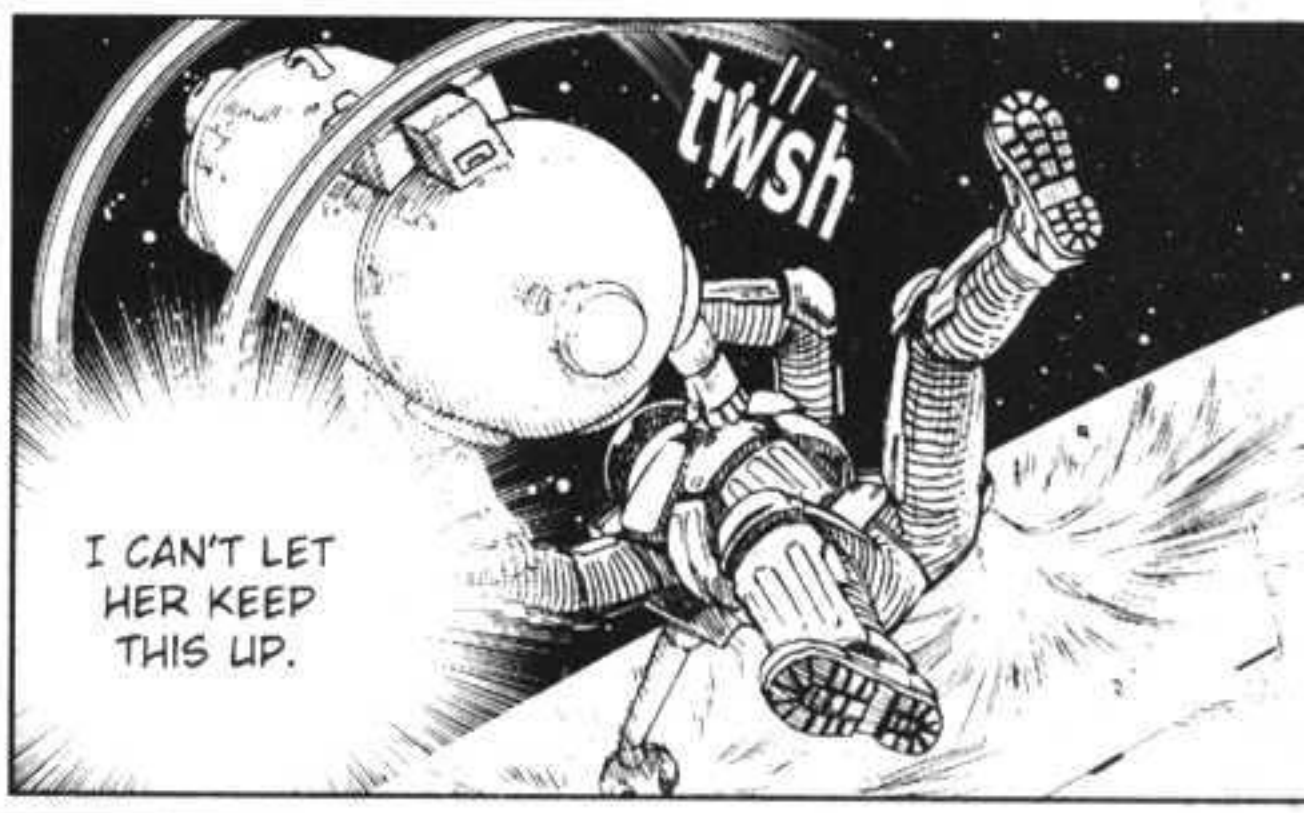
BUT HER FIGHTING STYLE MAKES GOOD SENSE IN SPACE...

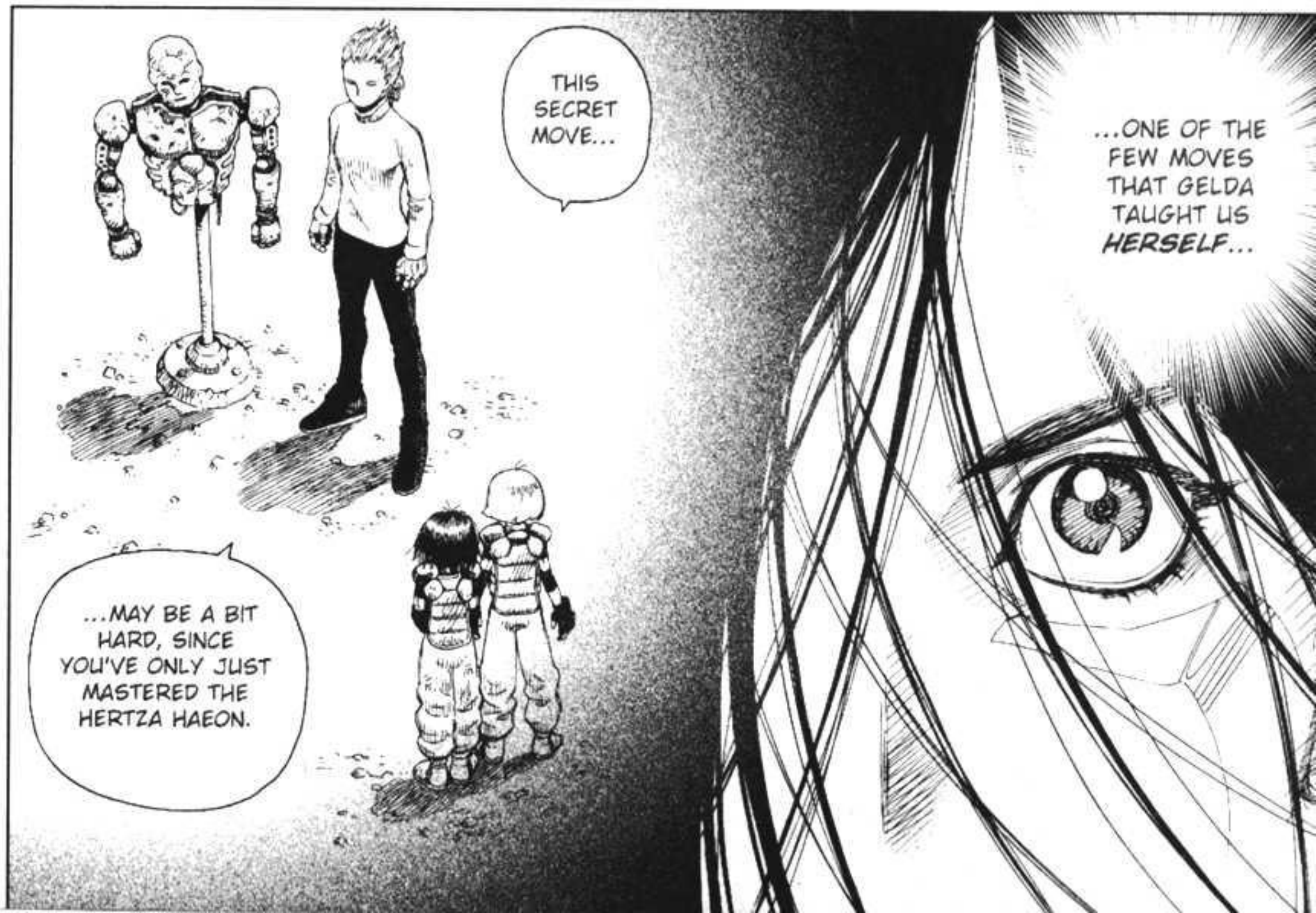
...GO FOR THE SUIT AND LET NATURE DO THE REST!

skrk

krek

UNH! SHE'S SO ROUGH!





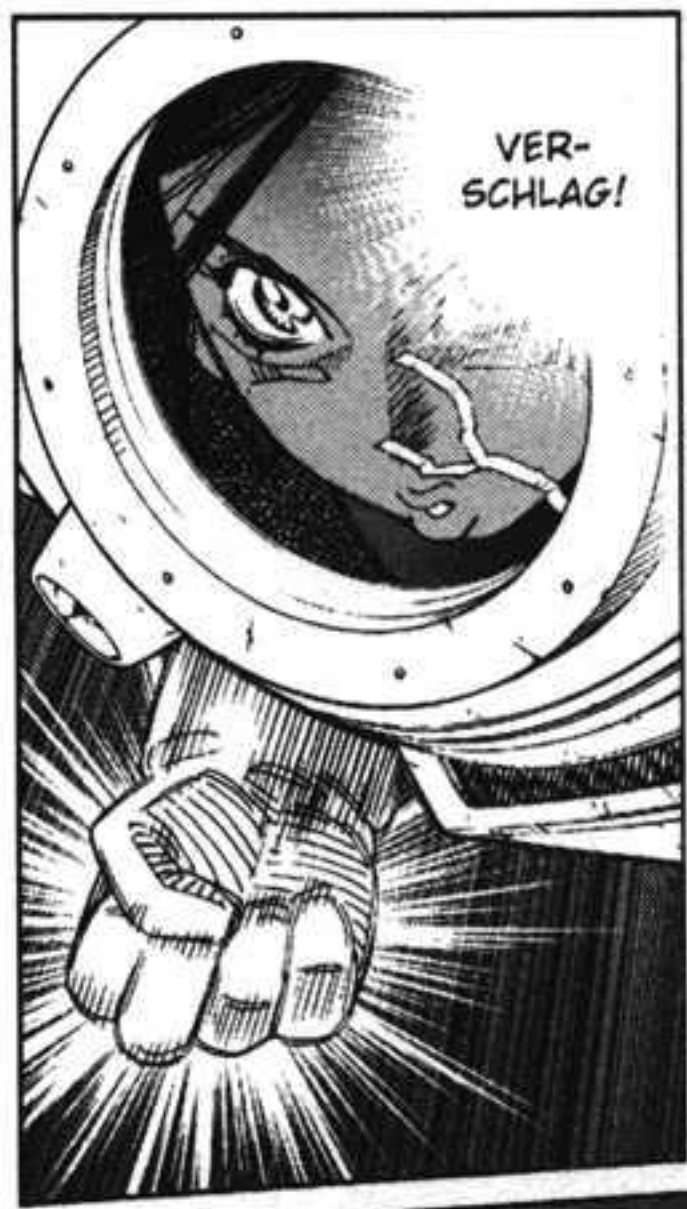
...AND YOU'LL BEAT THE BEST!
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH...
...BUT IT'S ONE OF THE PANZER KUNST GEHEIMNISSE! BECOME ADEPT AT THIS...

kang
tup

I GUESS EVEN GELDA CAN MESS UP!
SOME SECRET!
TEE, HEE!

IT'S THE TONE OF THE DEVIL.
CAN'T YOU HEAR IT, ERICA?
THAT WAS THE VER-SCHLAG.

knk
tnk


VER-
SCHLAG!

bab am
blam

KaTOK

fsh h

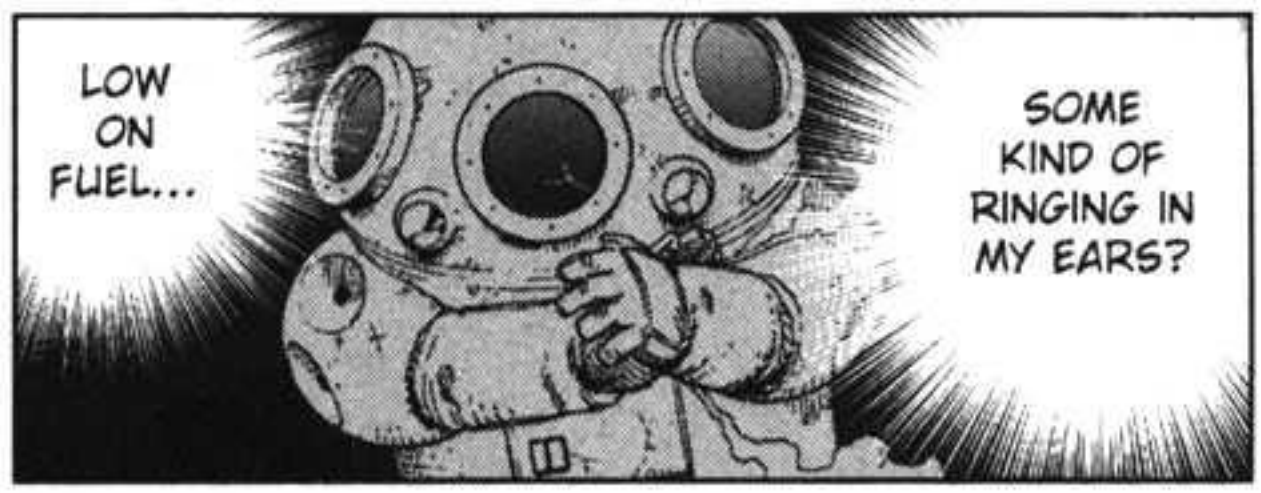
VWP

foom

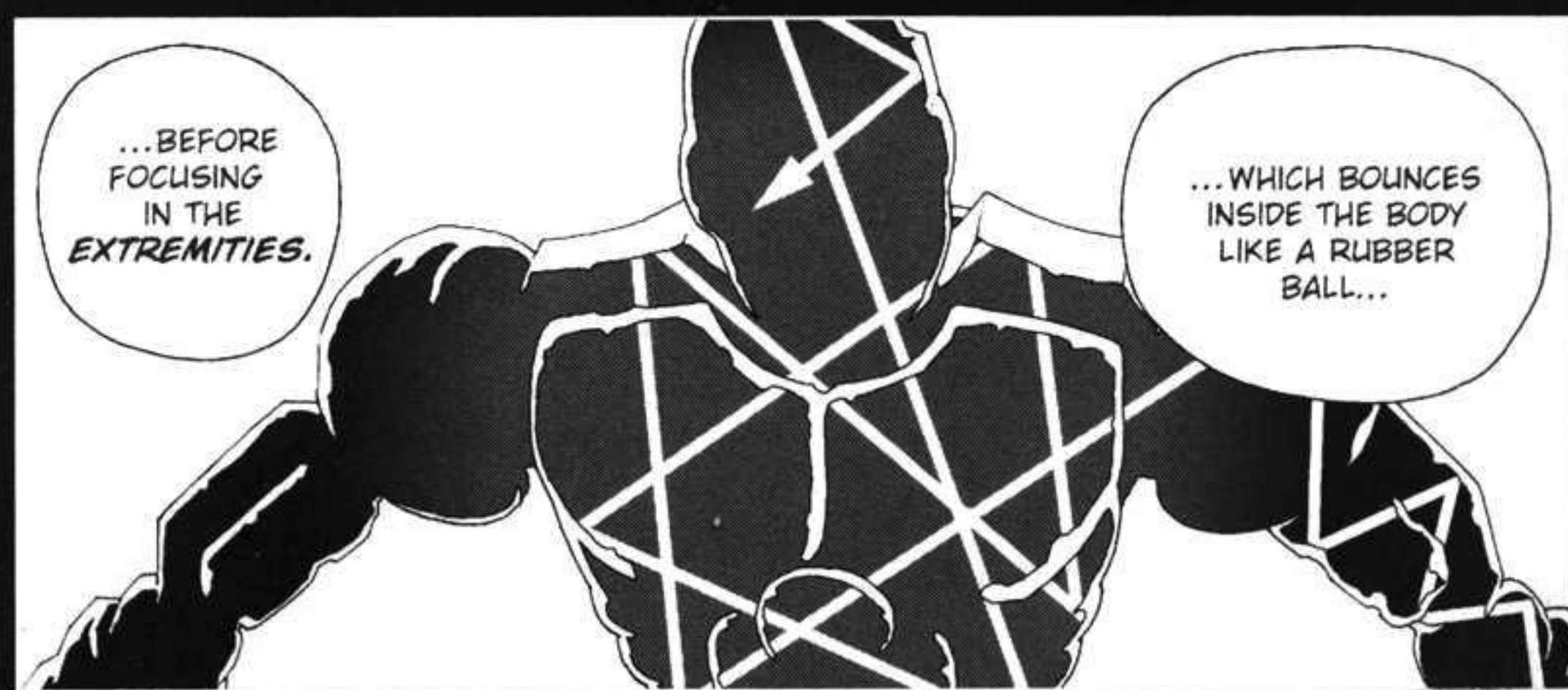
foom

foom

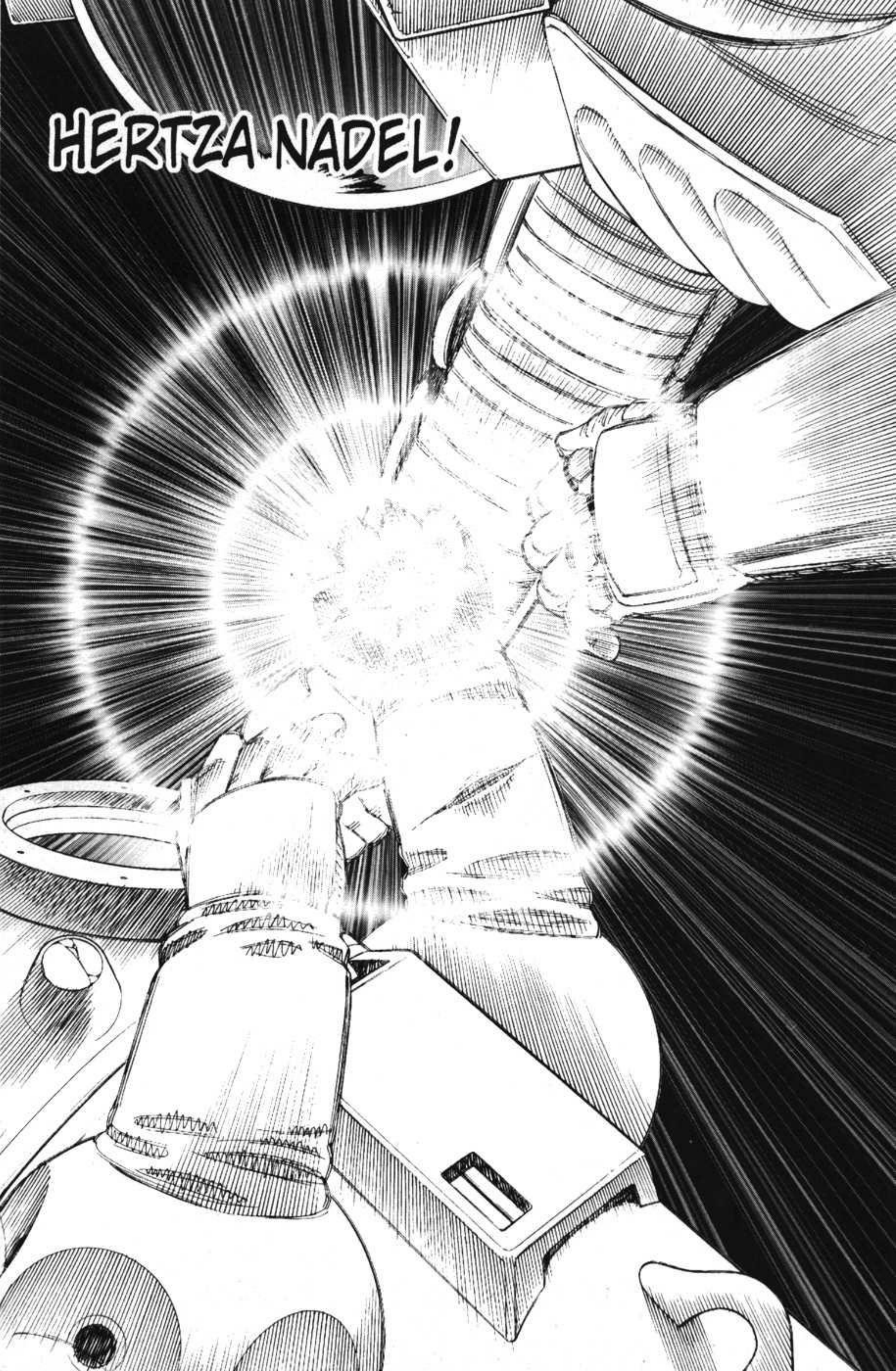
foom



THE FIRST VERSCHLAG MERELY SETS UP A *SHOCKWAVE*...


...BEFORE FOCUSING IN THE *EXTREMITIES.*
...WHICH BOUNCES INSIDE THE BODY LIKE A RUBBER BALL...

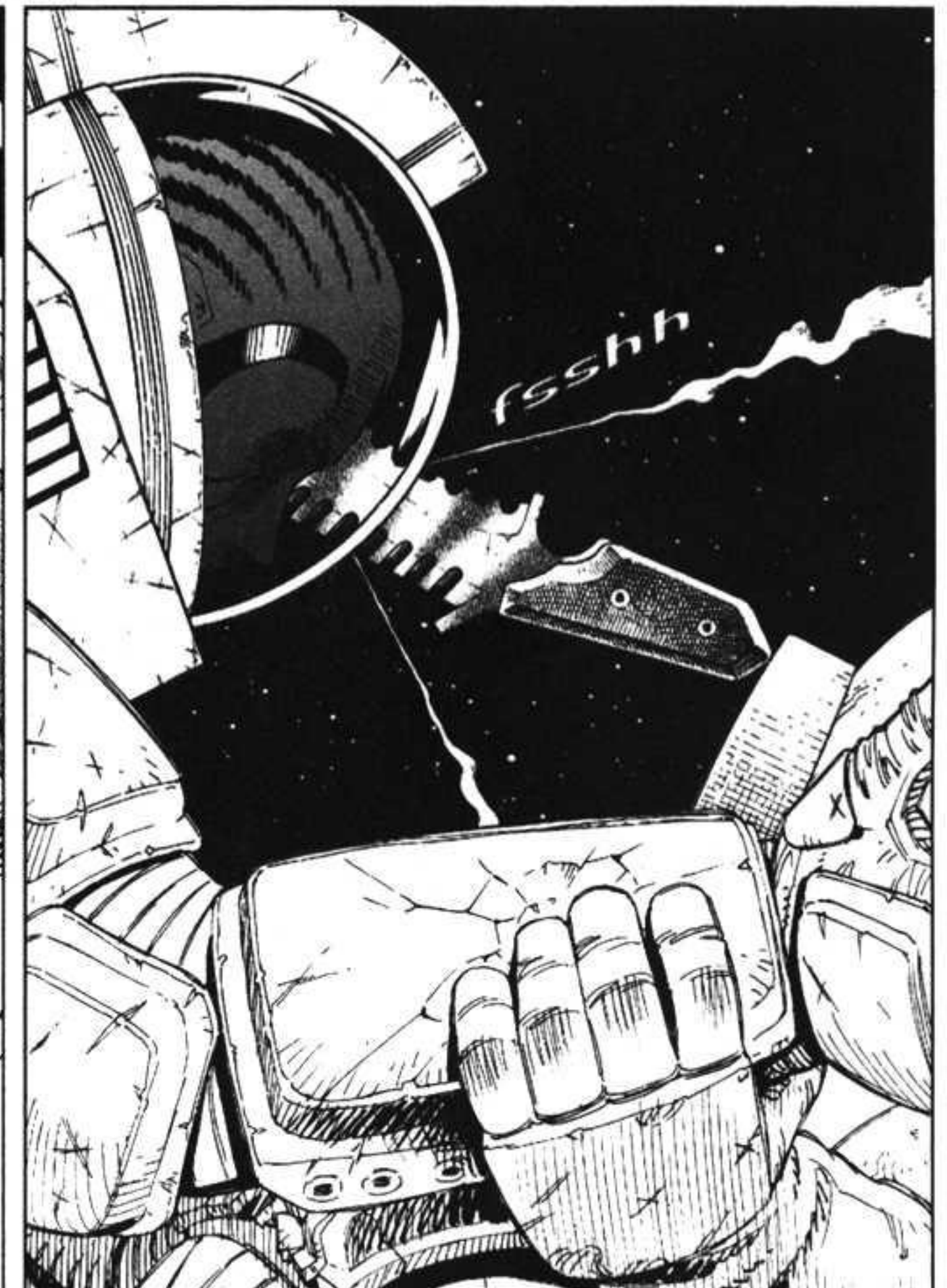
IF WE STRIKE LIKE A NEEDLE *INTO* THAT FOCAL POINT, THE PENT-UP ENERGY...
ttt
...*EXPLODES* FROM *WITHIN!* AND THERE YOU HAVE...


HERTZA NADEL!

bwam
kak
fwam
tsh
BOTH MY ARMS— DESTROYED IN AN INSTANT!
BUT YOUR SUIT WILL SHATTER WHEN I RAM YOU INTO THE SHIP!

SKRK

foom!



WILL YOU HELP ME?

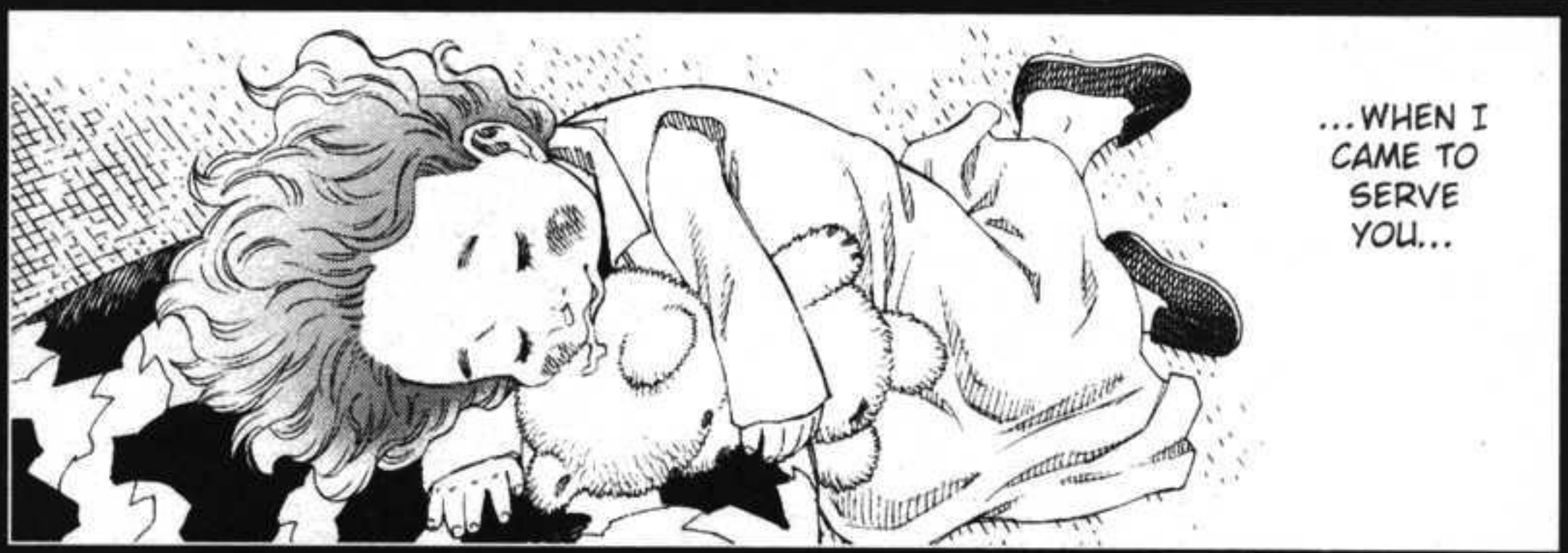
YOU'D BE A STRONG ALLY.

...
...

QUEEN LIMEIRA...

BUT...

...I CAN'T ALLOW A THREAT LIKE YOU TO REMAIN ON QUEEN LIMEIRA'S SHIP.


...WHEN I CAME TO SERVE YOU...

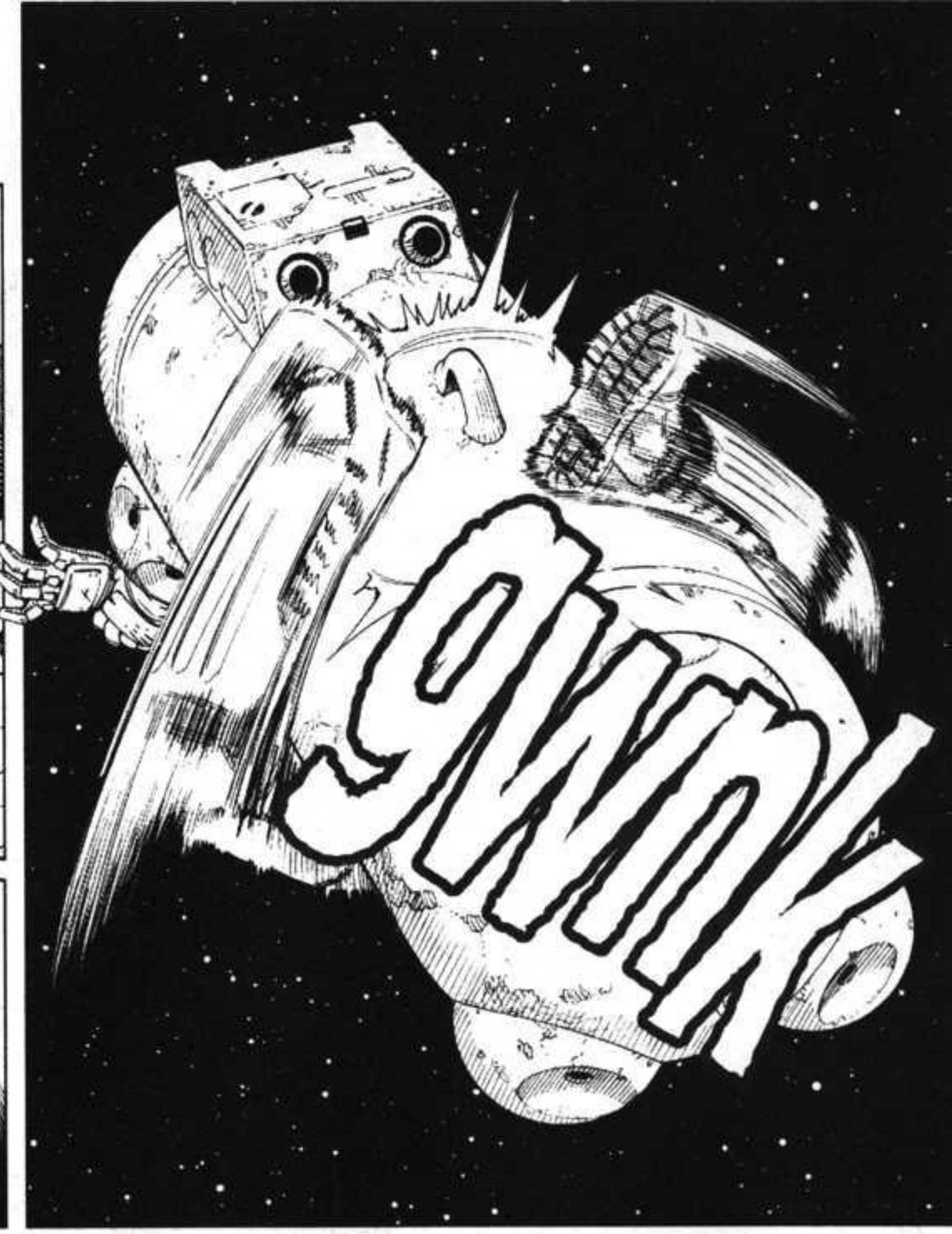
...MY LIFE FINALLY MEANT SOMETHING!

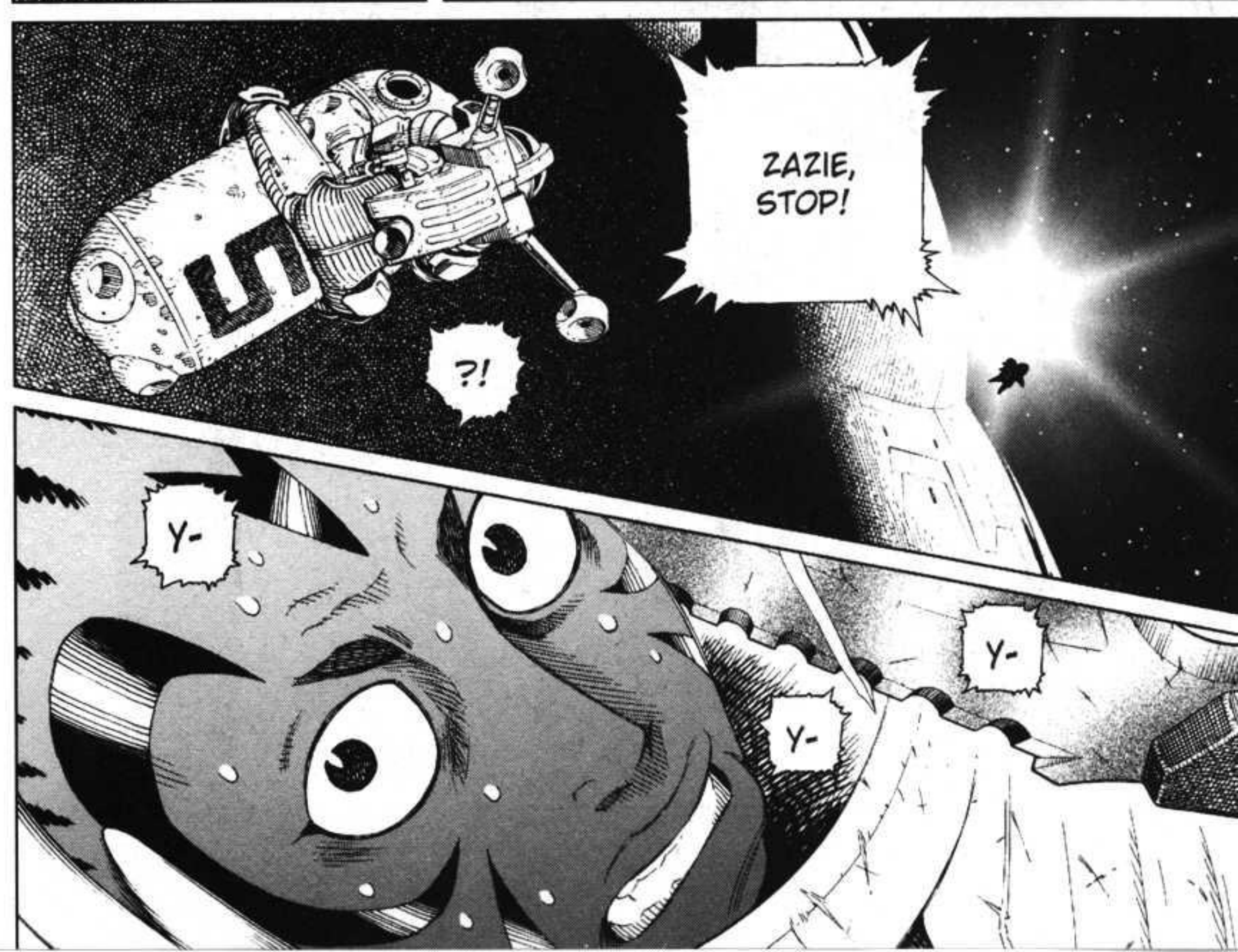
...ONE IS BUT A TARGET.
ON THE BATTLE-FIELD

...ONLY POSTPONE THE INEVITABLE.
EVEN THE FINEST WARRIORS...
...WHAT WILL THEY LEAVE BEHIND? ANYTHING?
AND WHEN THEIR DAY COMES...
...PROTECT THE *FUTURE* YOU WILL CREATE.
MY LIFE... WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.
hee!
...THAT I WILL PROTECT YOU...
BUT I SWEAR...

I'M GLAD ...
...TO HAVE A FOE LIKE YOU BE MY LAST!

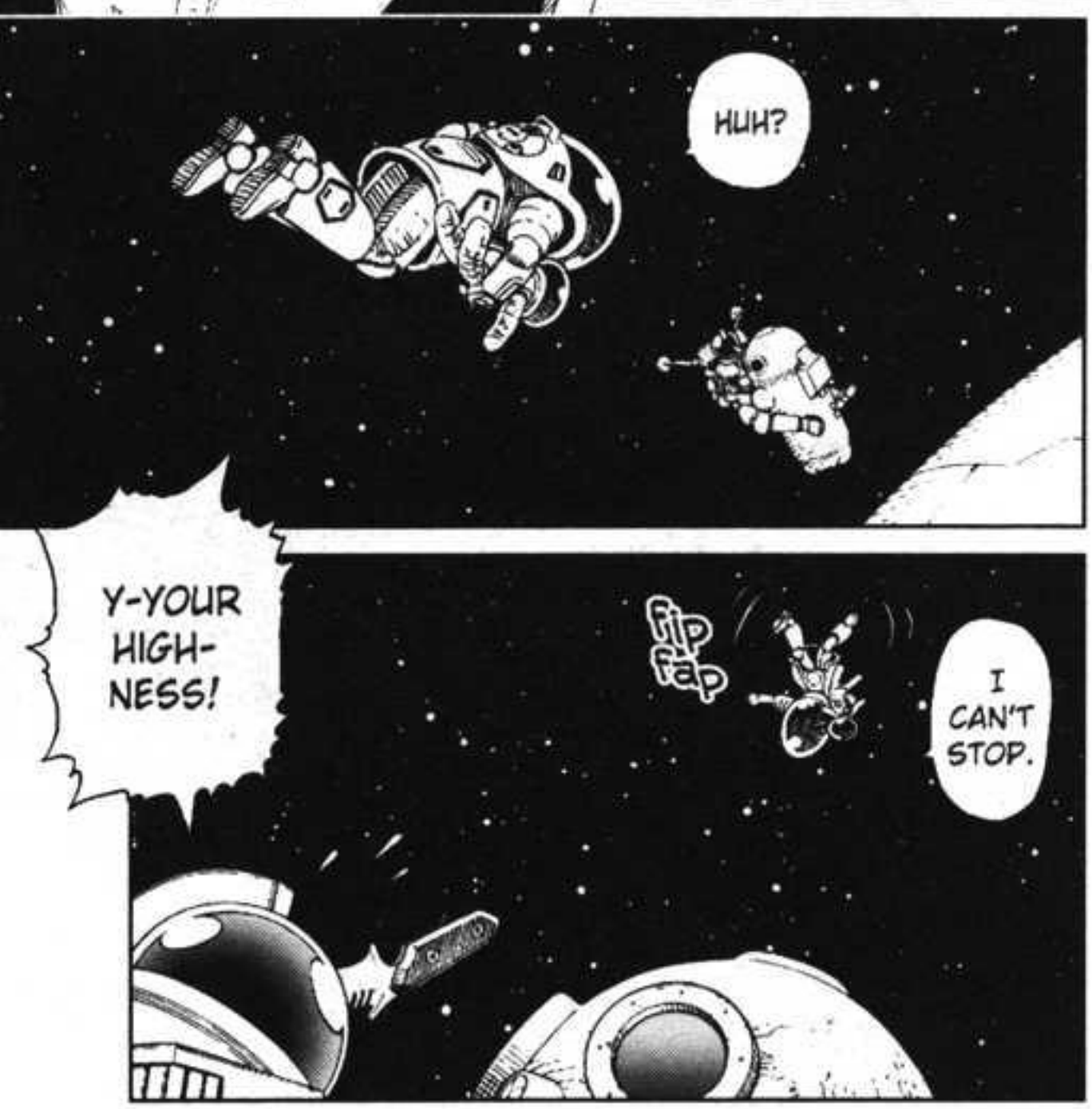
SHE'S GOING TO SELF-DESTRUCT!

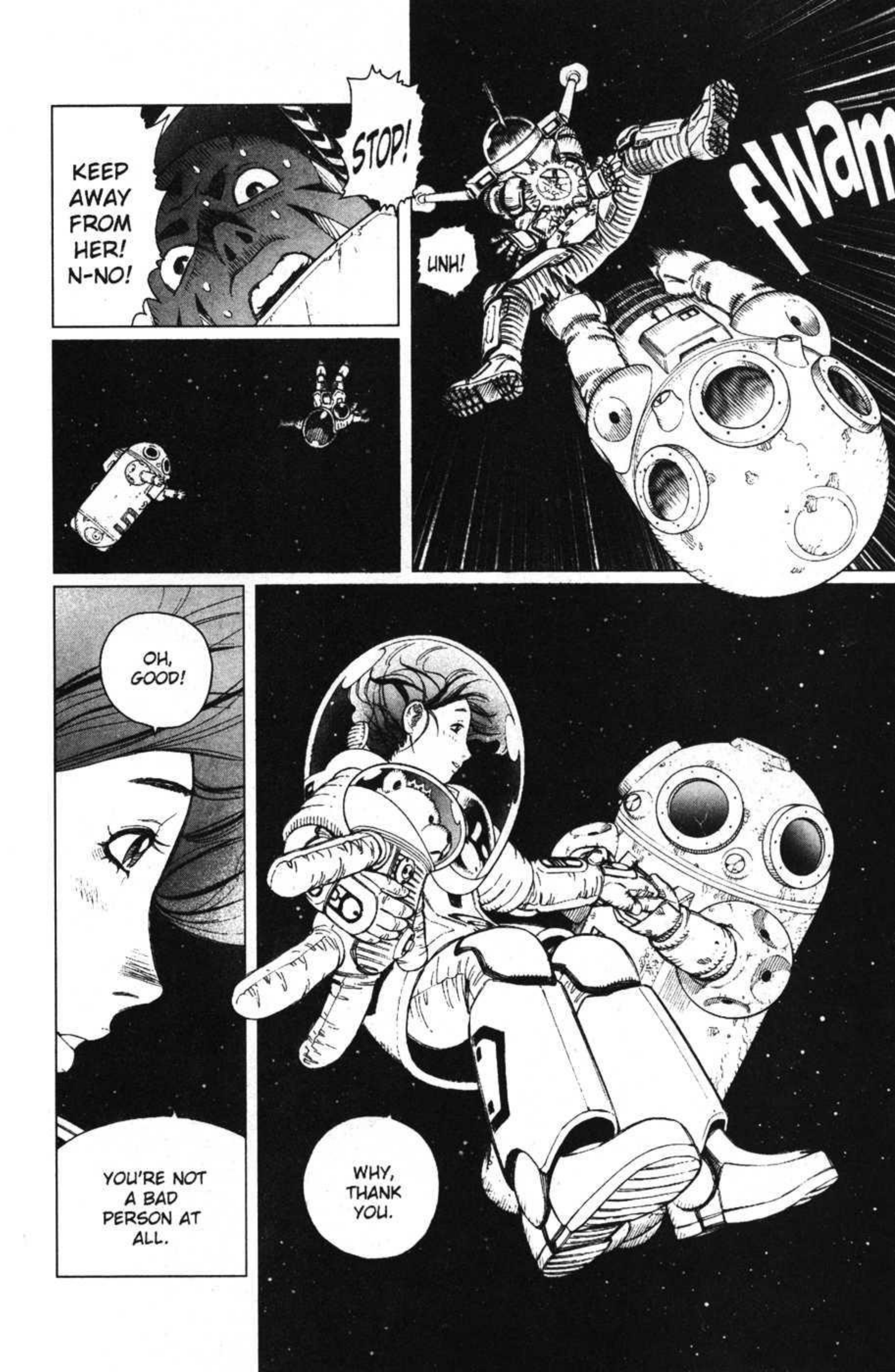

SMASH!


ZAZIE, STOP!
?!
Y-
Y-
Y-
Y-

Y-YOUR HIGH-NESS!

I FORBID YOU TO DIE!




KEEP AWAY FROM HER! N-NO!
STOP!
UNH!
fWam
OH, GOOD!
YOU'RE NOT A BAD PERSON AT ALL.
WHY, THANK YOU.

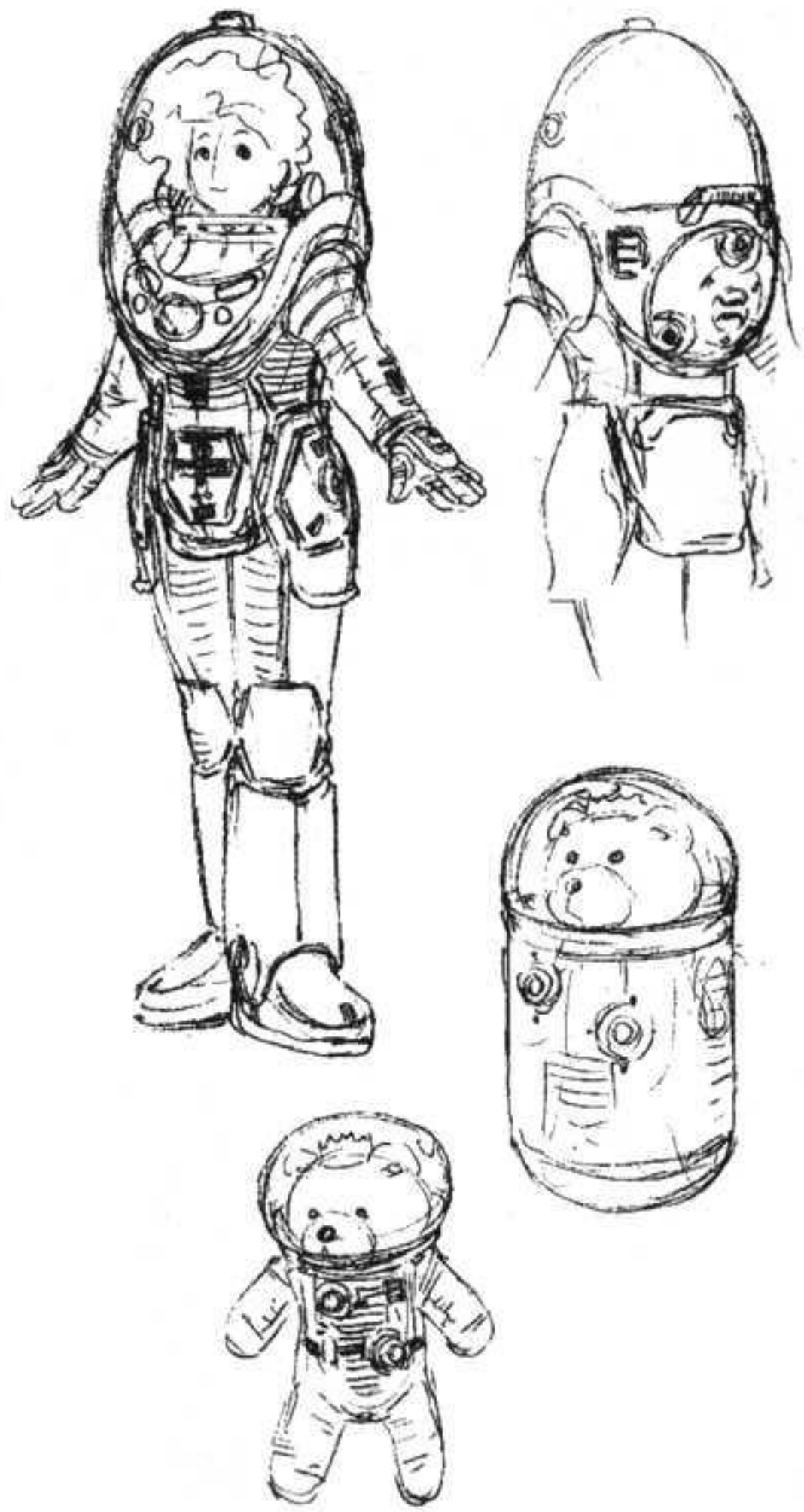
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

ALITA...

...YOKO.

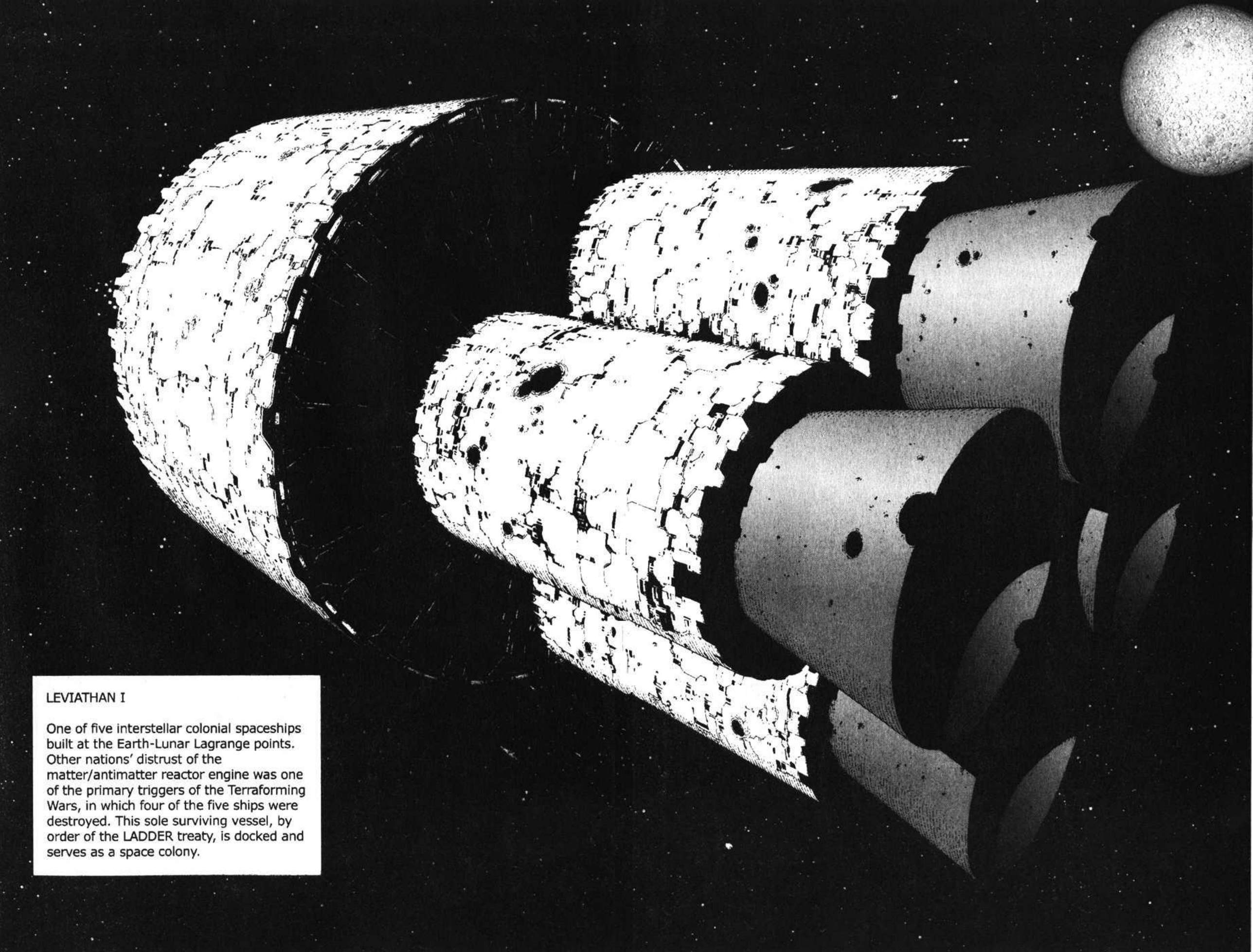
THE LAST CHAPTER WAS SITTING ON MY DESK WHEN MY HEADPHONE CORD KNOCKED OVER MY DRINK. I'M REAL BAD ABOUT THAT. I LOST A LOPTOP THAT WAY AROUND A YEAR AGO. SO I APOLIGIZE FOR ANY VISABLE WATERMARKS ON THIS LAST CHAPTER.

SHADES



PHASE 18

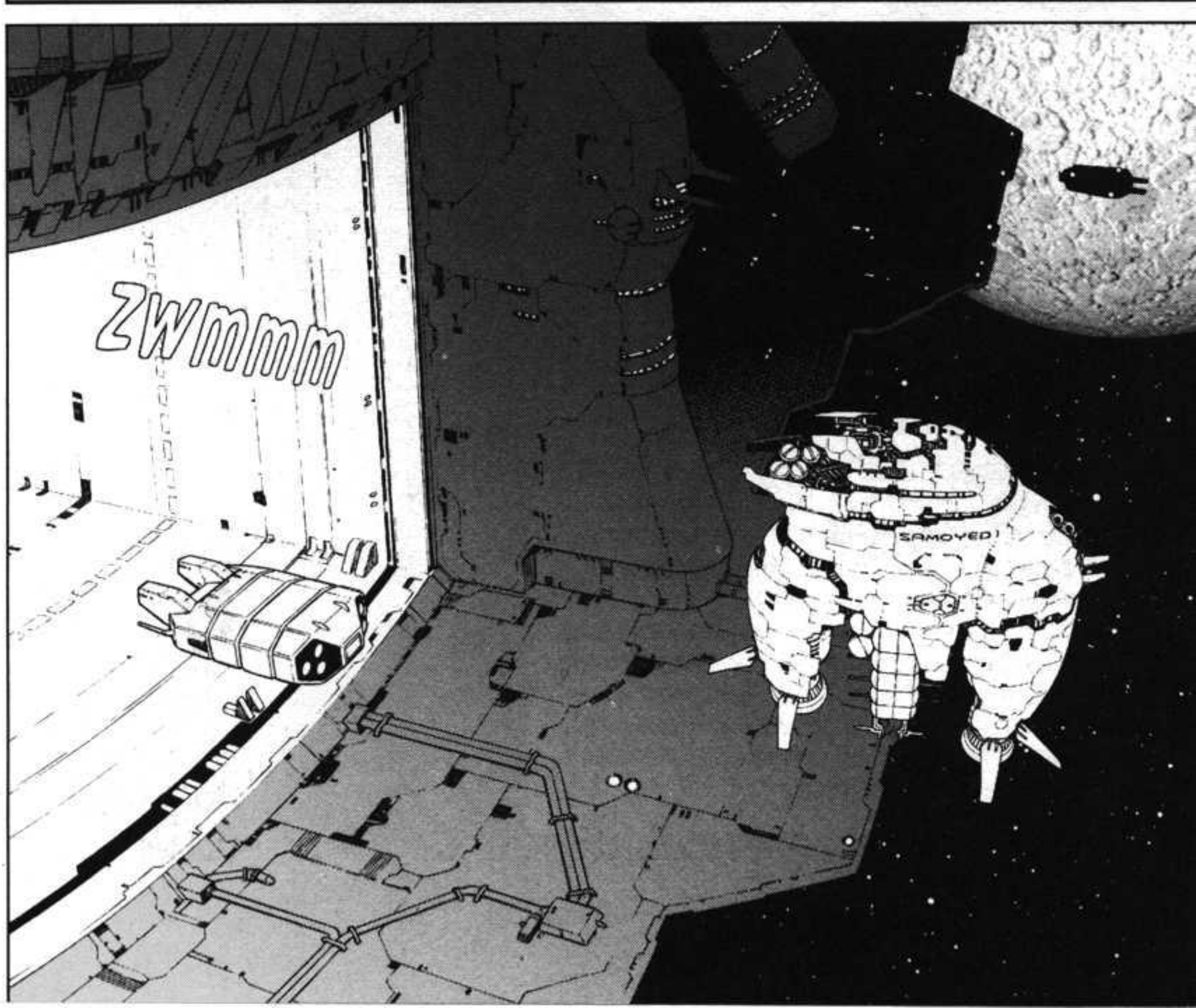
One Hundred Years...!



LEVIATHAN I

One of five interstellar colonial spaceships built at the Earth-Lunar Lagrange points. Other nations' distrust of the matter/antimatter reactor engine was one of the primary triggers of the Terraforming Wars, in which four of the five ships were destroyed. This sole surviving vessel, by order of the LADDER treaty, is docked and serves as a space colony.

SAMOYED1

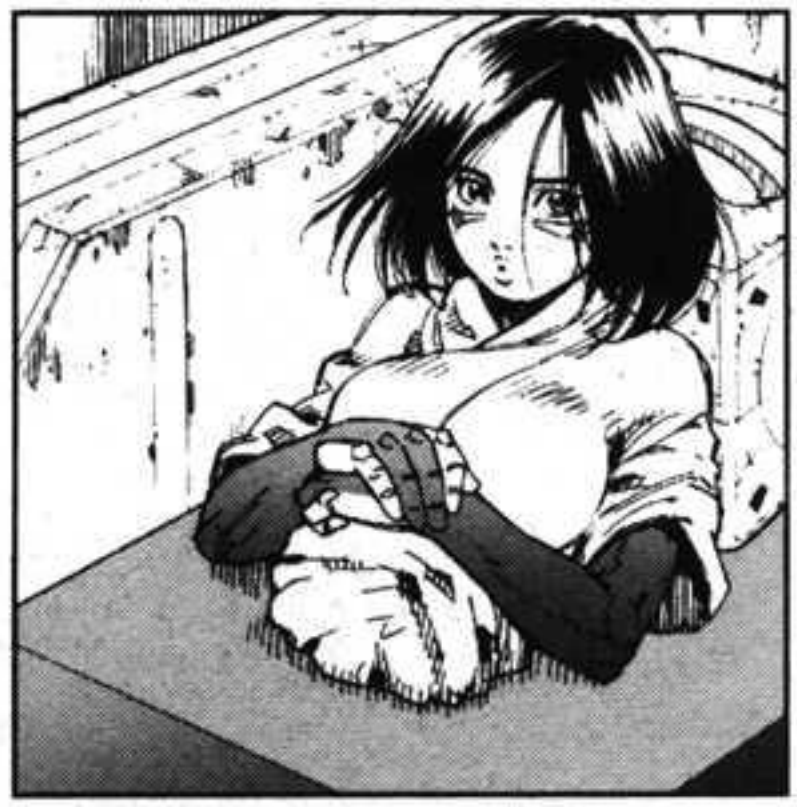

ZWMMM
SAMOYED1

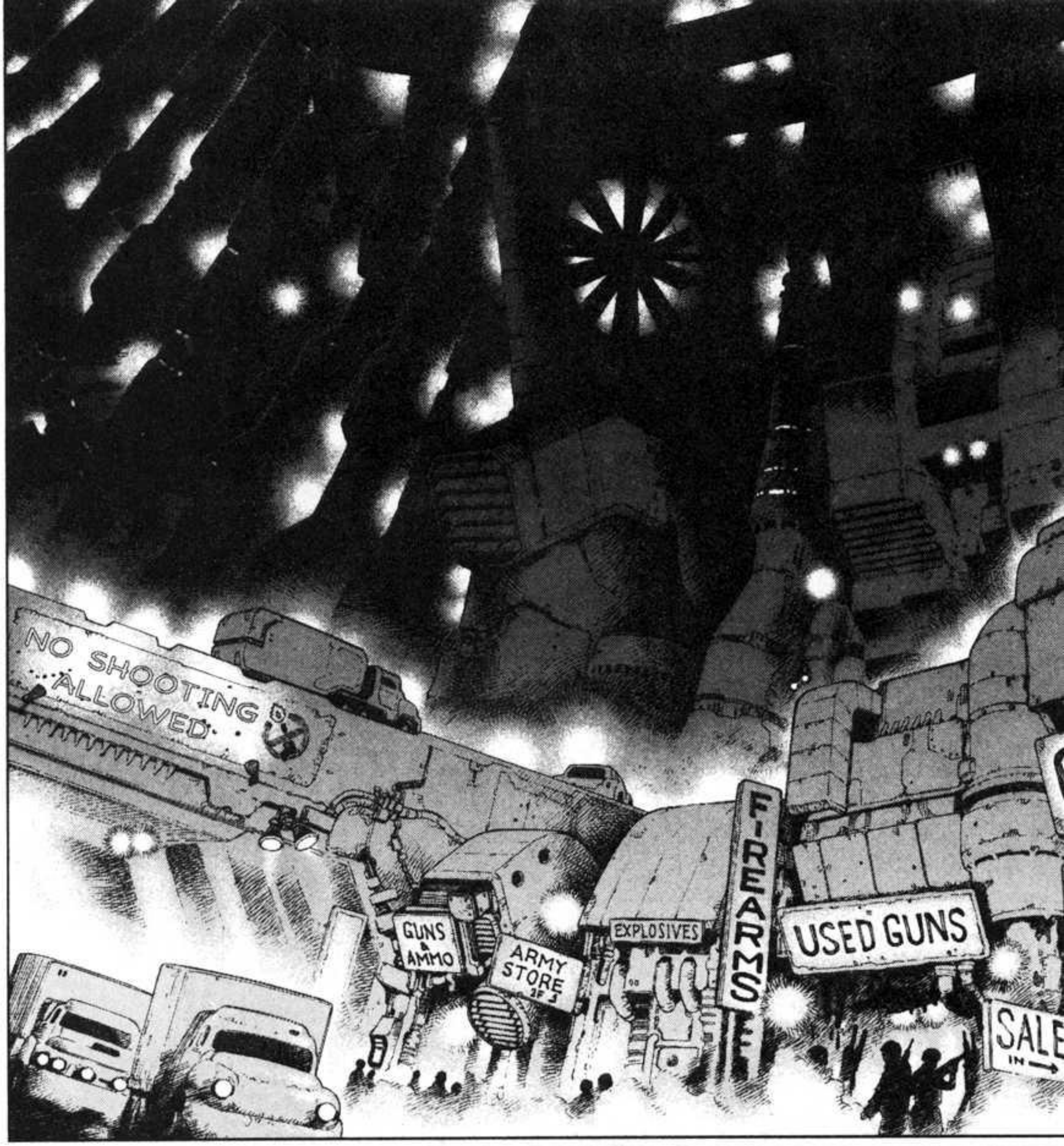
BE NICE! I'M INJURED, YA KNOW!

OWW!

bam

fwump




NO SHOOTING ALLOWED
GUNS & AMMO
ARMY STORE
EXPLOSIVES
FIREARMS
USED GUNS
SALE IN

GUN
ADMIN-APPROVED LOW-MASS AMMO!
GETCHER EQUIPMENT HERE—IN BULK AND CHEAP!

BÔSKA

NAH!

vroom

THIS ISN'T LIKE KETHERES AT ALL...

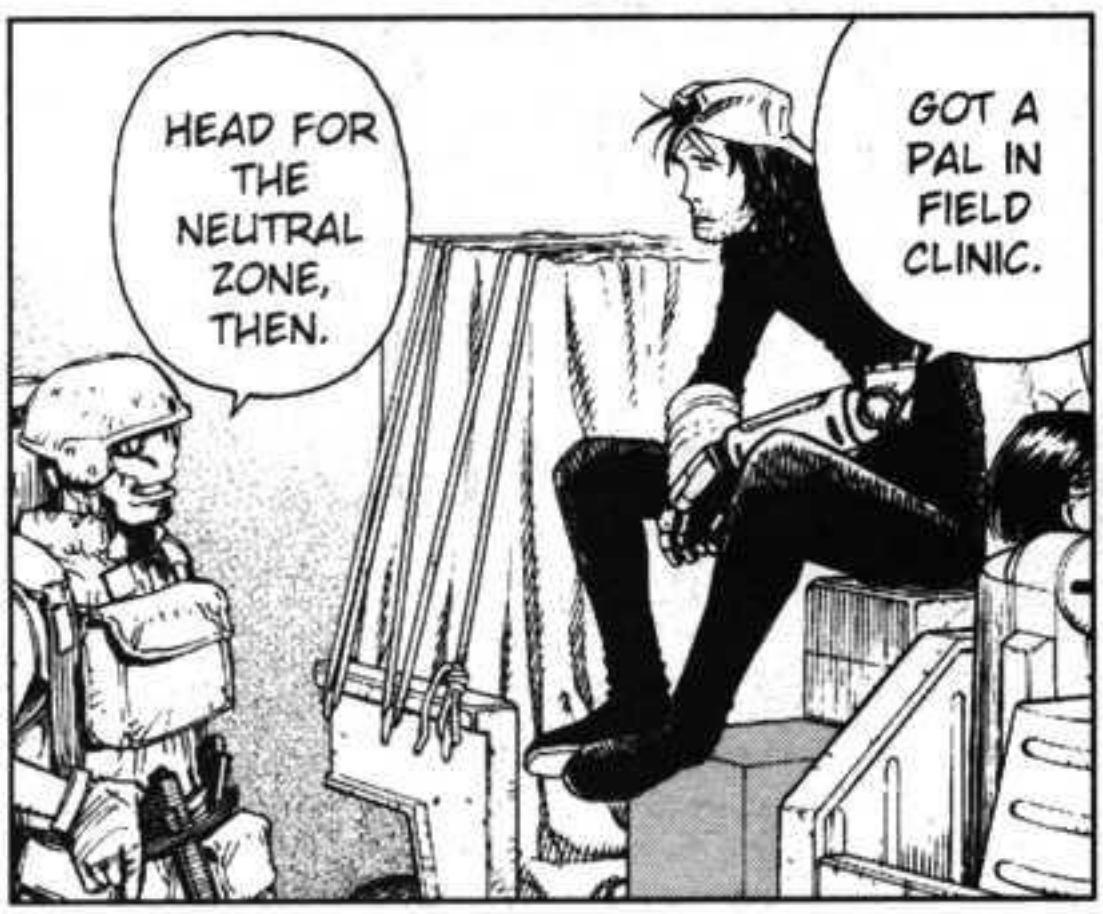
THEY'VE OPENED UP THE CENTRIFUGAL GRAVITY DISTRICT TO WAR GAMES... BRINGS IN FOREIGN CASH.

IT MAY BE PART OF THE FED, BUT MOST FOLKS ARE FOREIGN— NO ***UNANIMOUS*** TO WRESTLE WITH.

COMBAT FREE

GOTCHER AFFAIRS IN ORDER?

THE COMBAT CHAMBER? RIGHT HERE!



Megasol: a unit of currency used in the inner planets.

RATATATTAT
BOOM BOOM
Skreee
NEXT!
Vreeen
CABSTONE
H-HEY.

skrrek
DOCTOR, THAT'S THE *HEALTHY* LEG!

LONG TIME NO SEE...

UM... GOT A MINUTE?

plop
AREN'T *WE* PICKY! WHAT'S THE DIFF'? WE'RE MAKIN' A *CYBORG!*

I-IT'S *ME!* HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME, REM?!
STONE
fwsh
Vreen
I CAN ONLY AMPUTATE *ONE GUY* AT A *TIME!*

DO YOU THINK...WE COULD *START OVER?*

ONE HUNDRED YEARS...!

.....

WHAT DO YOU WANT, PING WU?

YOU... YOU'VE SURE *CHANGED...*

WHAT ABOUT ANAS-THESIA?!

gaaah

Skree

AND YOU JUST WALTZ BACK IN HERE?!

I'VE LEARNED HOW TO CUT OUT THE DEAD WEIGHT, PING WU.

THAT'S WHAT TIME DOES TO A PERSON.

THAT NAIVE GIRL WHO ONCE LOVED A HERO? *THAT* REM RAY...*GREW UP.*

THAT JERK!

MARTIN TOLD ME YOU WERE DEAD.

ARE YOU REALLY *ALIVE?*

THAT SO?

chk

...ALIVE AND WELL!

BUT LOOK! HERE I AM...

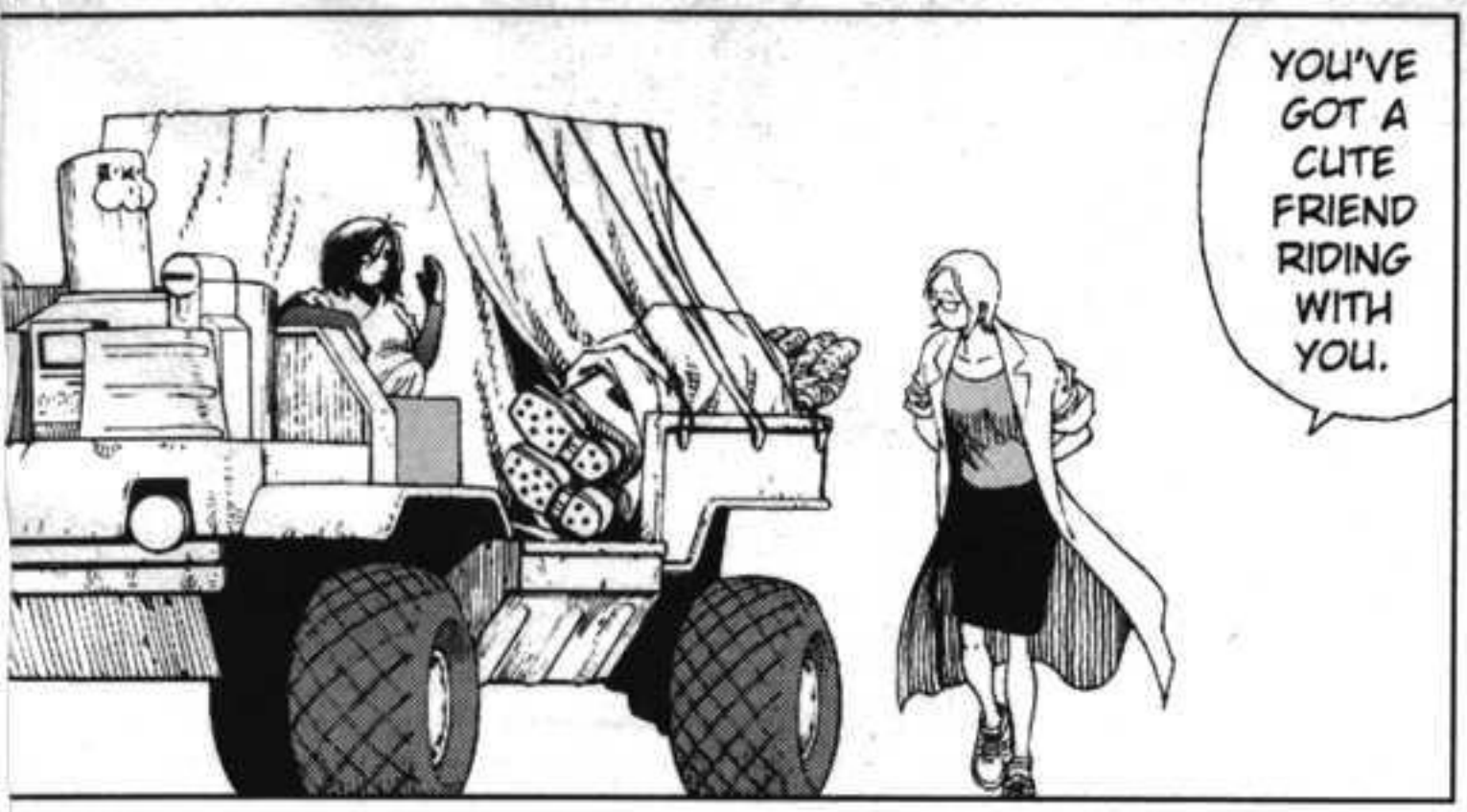
IT'S WHAT YOU *DO* WITH IT THAT COUNTS...

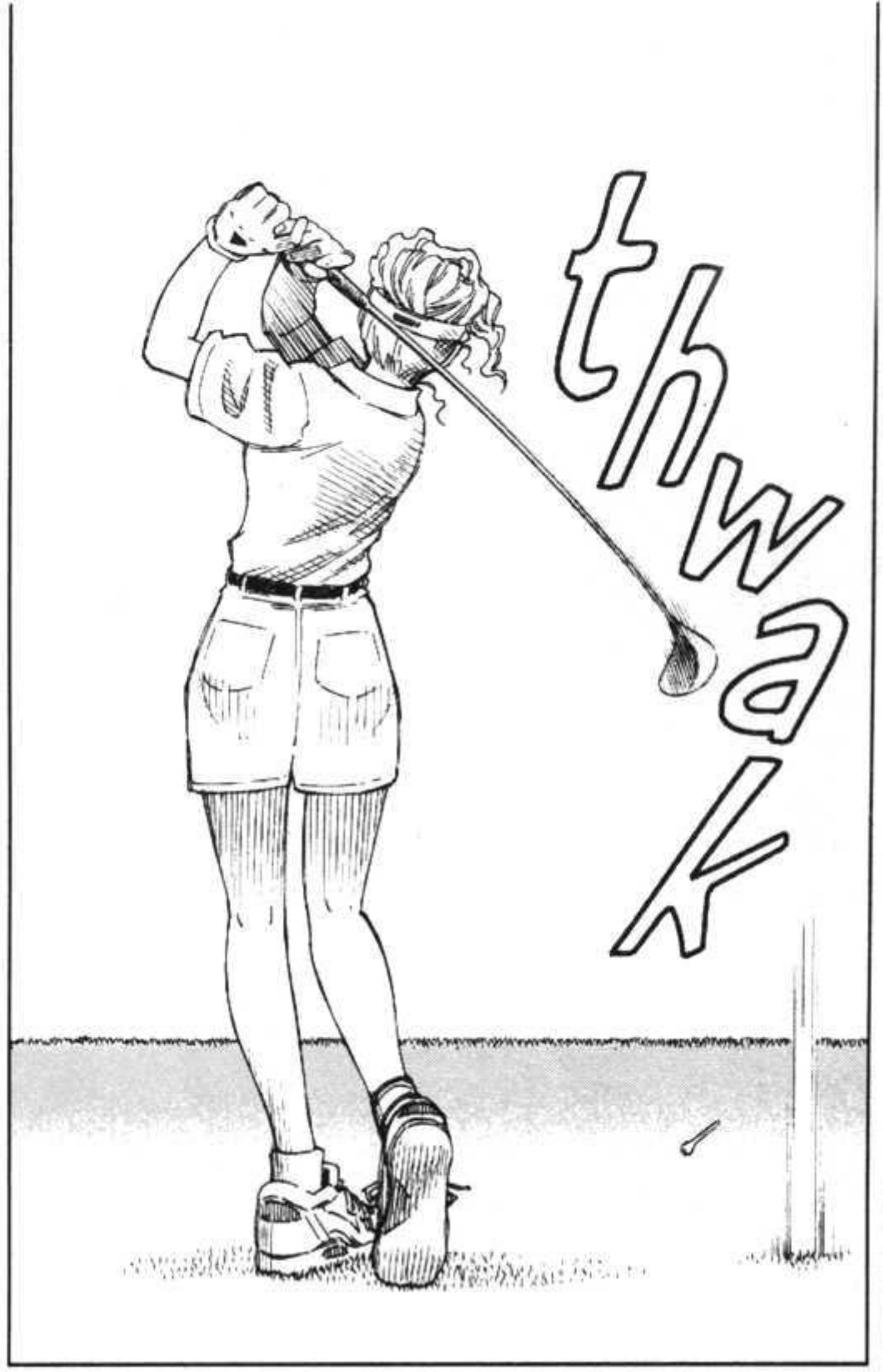
...AND *WHO* YOU DO IT *WITH.*

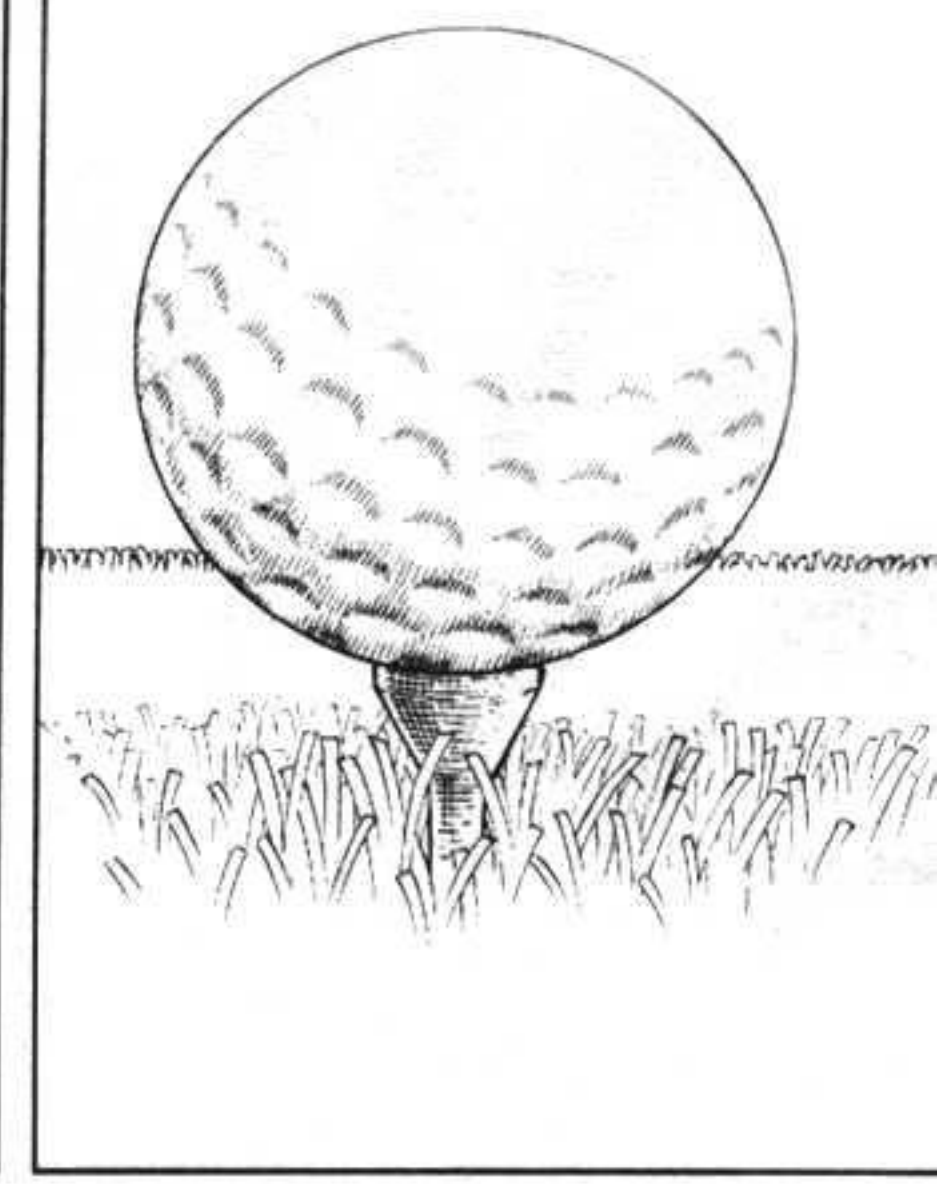
SURE, YOUR HEART IS BEATING AND YOU CAN DRAG YOUR BODY AROUND. BIG DEAL. I'VE DONE MORE WITH LESS.

I DON'T GET WHAT YOU MEAN...

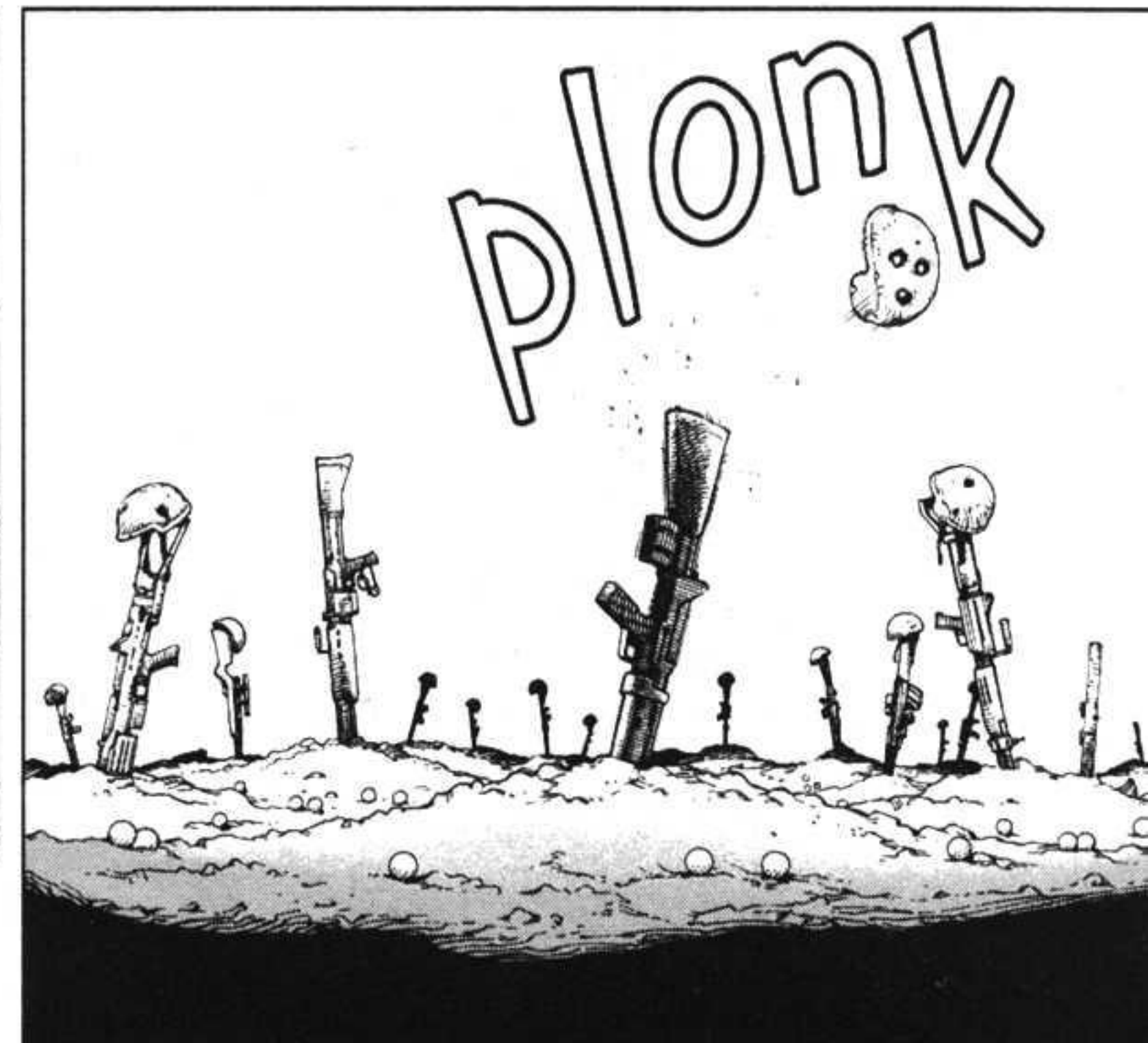
.....




thwack



AWW! THE BALL'S SLICING ALL WEIRD!


plonk

Coriolis force: an inertial force that occurs within a rotating frame of reference. Described by French engineer Gaspard-Gustave Coriolis (1792-1843) in 1835. The radius of a space colony relying on centrifugal gravity is far smaller than a planet, so the Coriolis force is more pronounced.

SO YOU'RE THE MAIN COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTOR IN LEVIATHAN I NOW. YOU SURE MADE IT BIG.

YUP! ♡

OH MY GAWD! I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!

gwom

P-P... PING?!

Y-YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE ALL THIS TIME?!

sob!

...THIS LI'L THING?

tik

tak

OH...

HMM?

OH, PING... YOUR *HAND!*

ka

BLAM

I GOT IT WHEN YOU BETRAYED ME, DUMBASS!

EEK! I-I'M SORRY!

wham

I'M HERE FOR PAYBACK– WITH *ONE HUNDRED YEARS' INTEREST!*

TOGETHER, THERE WAS NO SECURITY SYSTEM THEY COULDN'T CRACK.
PING WAS THE WEASEL. MARTIN WAS THE SKUNK.
WASN'T A HACKER ALIVE WHO DIDN'T FOLLOW THE WEASEL'S EXPLOITS!
HE WAS QUITE A NAME IN THE UNDER-WORLD.
SURE, THEY'D PILFER MONEY FROM BANK ACCOUNTS EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, JUST TO GET BY...
...BUT THOSE BOYS HAD BIG IDEALS.

...AND HACKERS LIKE WEASEL WENT INTO OPEN REVOLT.

AFTER THE WAR, THINGS WENT TO HELL.

METHUSELYZATION PAVED THE WAY FOR STRICT BREEDING CONTROLS. THE NEXT GENERATION BECAME A ***THREAT***, NOT A ***PROMISE***...

HE WAS SO COOL BACK THEN!

EVERYTHING WAS LIKE A DREAM...

HE STARTED KILLING OFF ALL OF WEASEL'S HACKER BUDDIES, ONE BY ONE.

Kink

...UNTIL ONE DAY, AN ANTI-HACKER CALLED *TRINIDAD* SHOWED UP IN LADDER.

...GOT ALL RILED UP AND READY TO TAKE ON THE BIG GUYS.

WEASEL WAS BACKED INTO A CORNER..

A ONE-MAN *COUP D'ÉTAT*, THAT BOY!

HE WANTED TO DUKE IT OUT WITH TRINIDAD, HACK INTO MELCHIZEDEK, AND TAKE OVER LADDER.

I TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT, BUT WHAT DID *I* KNOW?

WAS IT A LIFETIME AGO...

ONE HUNDRED YEARS...

...OR ONLY YESTERDAY...?

HE LEFT ME...AND STRODE INTO KETHERES.

YOU CAN PICTURE THE REST.

AND JUST SO YOU KNOW...

...THE PLAN WOULD'VE ***SUCCEEDED***—IF ***HE*** HADN'T FREAKED OUT AND BAILED!

keek keek

ENOUGH REMINISCING... YOU'RE MAKIN' ME BLUSH.

bam
bam
YEAH?
PING...
...THERE'S ONE THING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU.

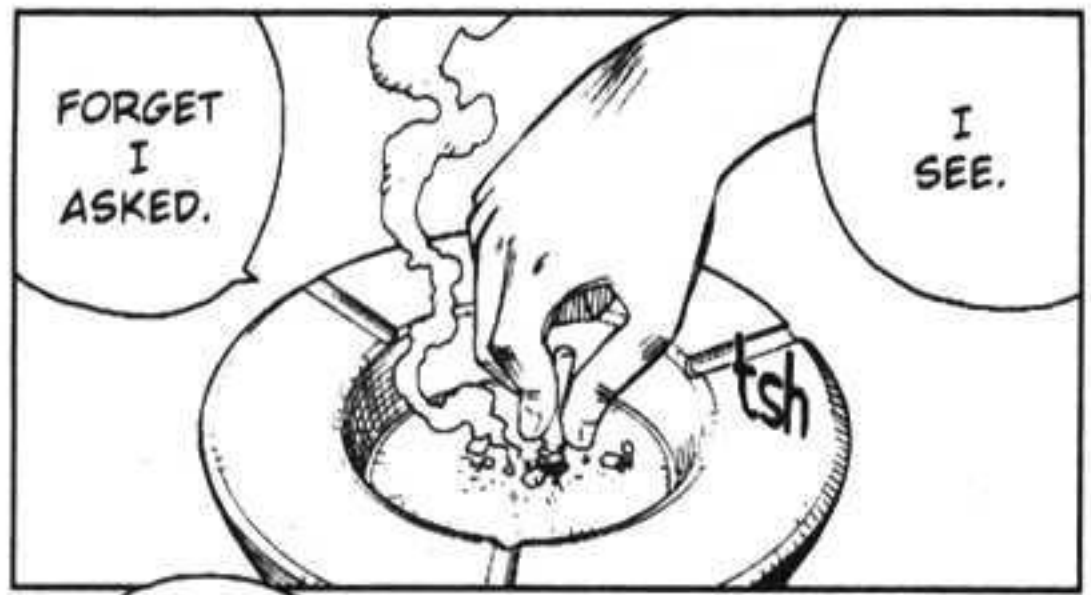
THAT NAIVE BOY WHO ONCE PLAYED THE HERO?

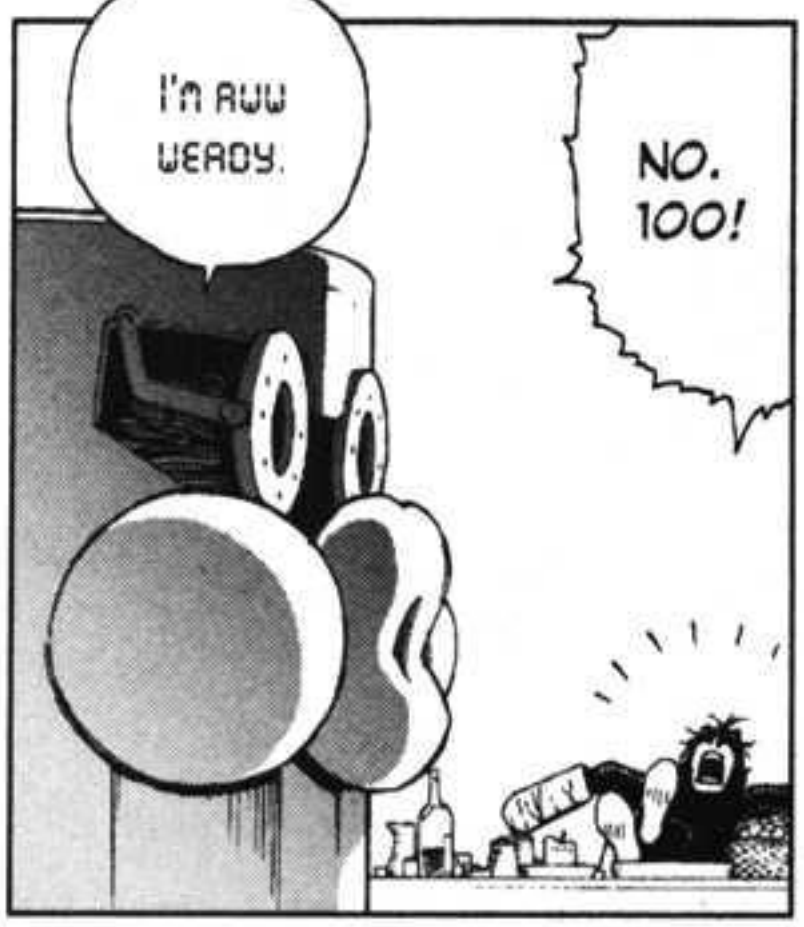
HE GREW UP.

CHANGE THE WORLD?

DUMBEST THING I EVER HEARD!

PEOPLE AREN'T WORTH SAVING!

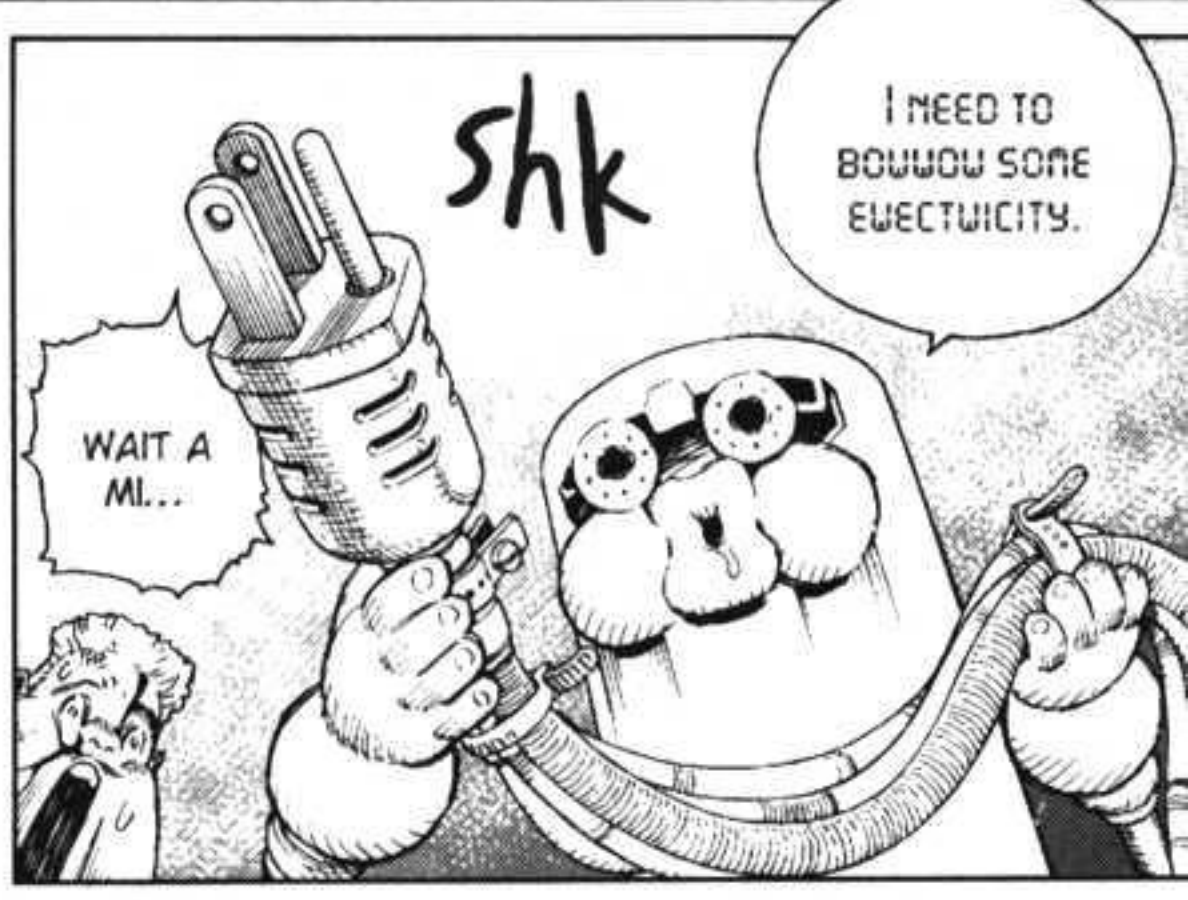


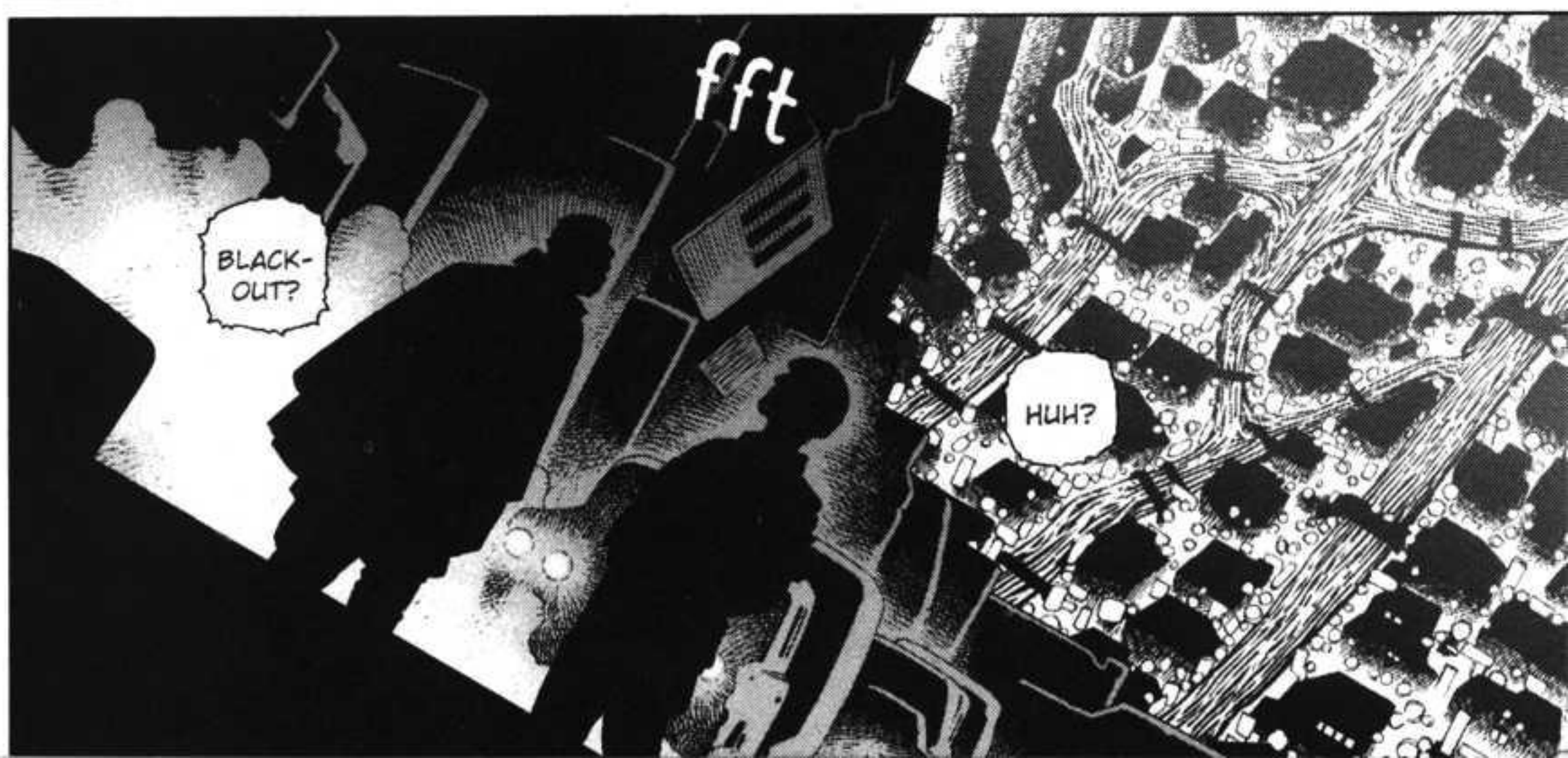


W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

MM-HMM.

MASTER.





FILL 'ER UP! IT'S HIS TREAT!

YEEK!

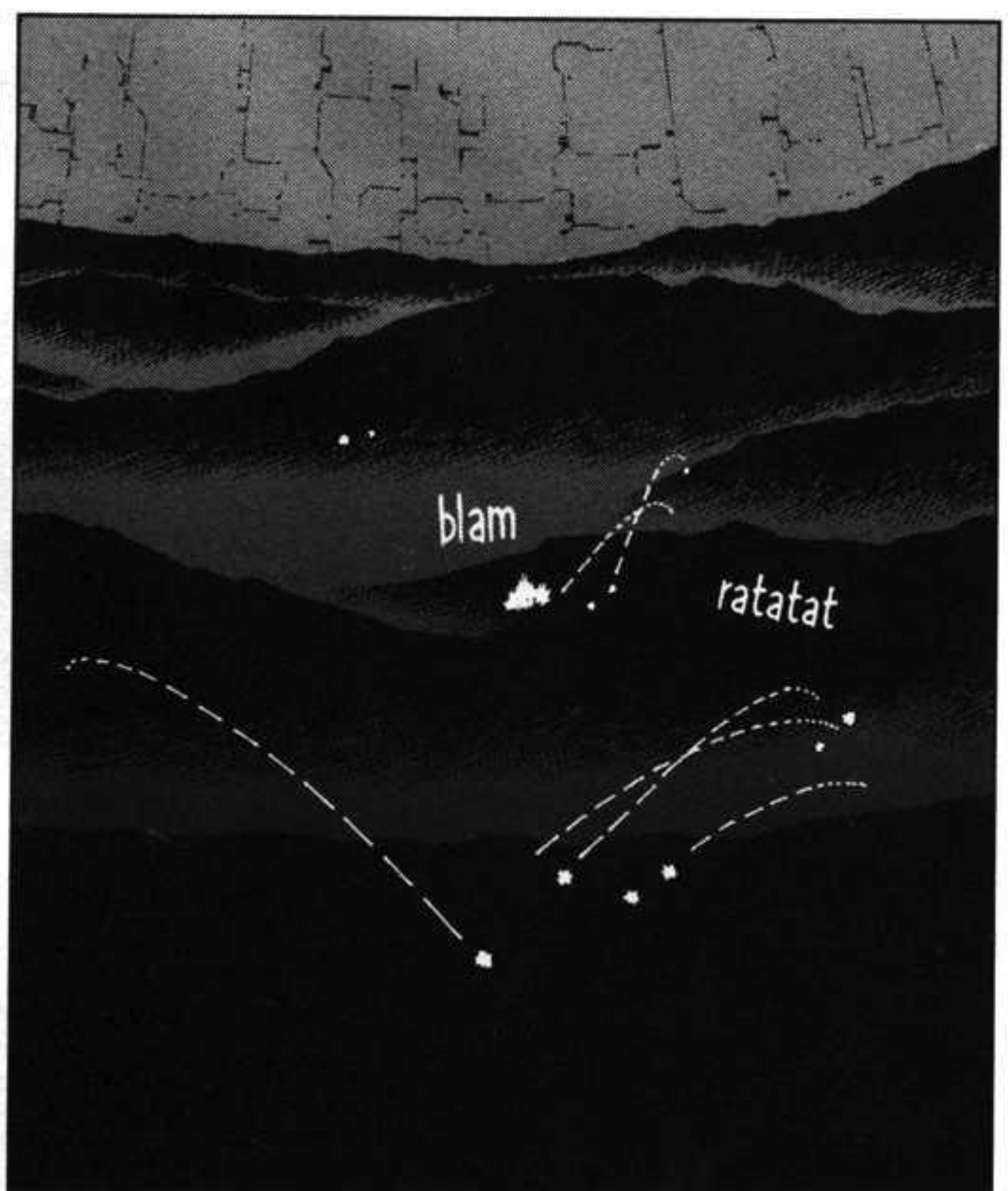
ENOUGH JUICE THERE, LITTLE FELLA?

I WAS ALMOST BONE DRY!

ZZT

ZZ

LAK



NANOTECH MADE 'EM ALL IMMORTAL!

krk

...AND WELCOME TO IT!

...NONE OF THIS WOULD EXIST!

glug

IF I HADN'T STOLEN IT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO AND GIVEN IT AWAY...

...YOU'VE GOT *ME* T' THANK FER *ALL* OF IT!

BUDDA BUDDA

KIDS OUT THERE WOULDN'T BE KILLING EACH OTHER.

GET IT?

BOOM

BAM BAM BAM

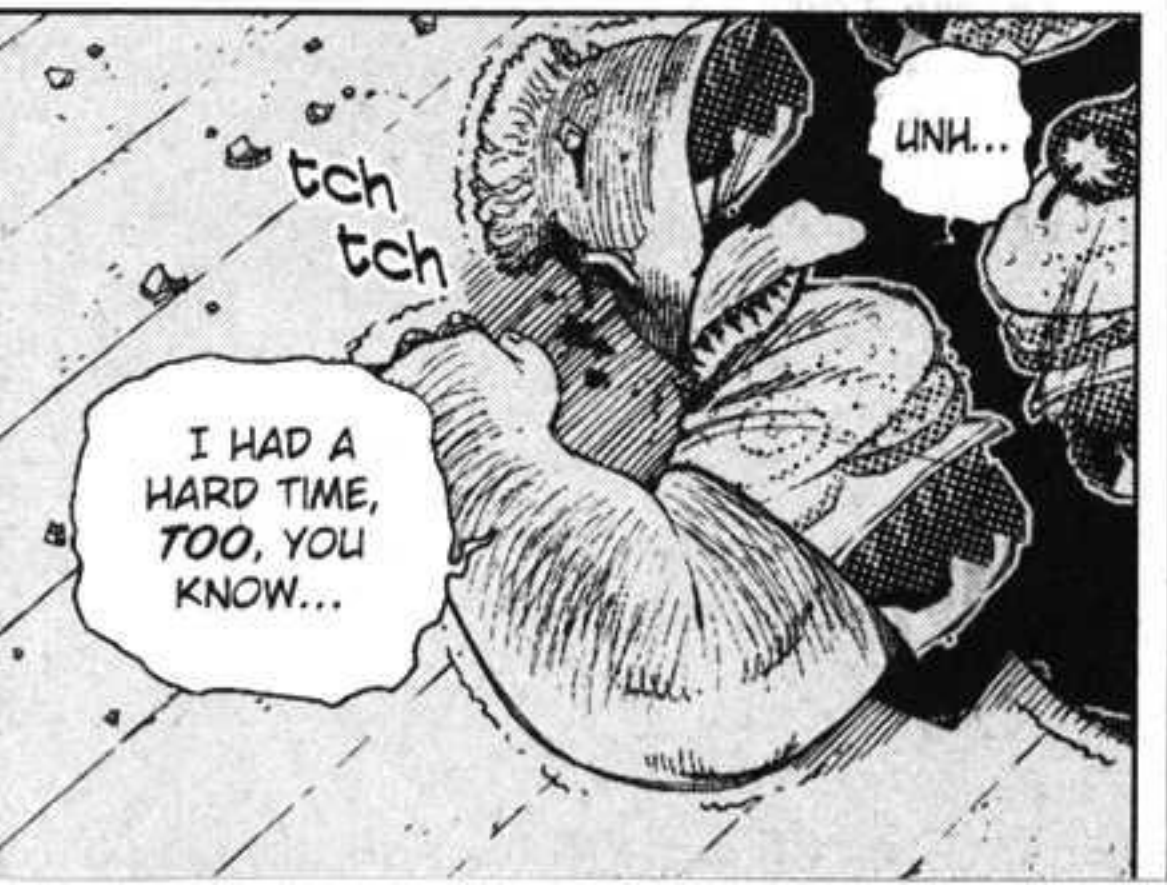
THIS COMBAT CHAMBER— EVEN LADDER...

WH-WHAT?!

CI

I MADE THIS WORLD...

...SO EVERYTHING THAT'S *YOURS* IS *MINE!*



AGH!

bam

fump

fwsh

BUT DO YOU CARE?!

...BUT I'M HELPING MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU *EVER* DID!

LAUGH AT ME ALL YOU WANT...

smak

OOF

FAT SLOB!

OW!

POW

SOK

WAAH! I HATE YOU!

biff

unh...

YOU'RE GONNA GET IT *NOW*...

YOU *BLOB!*

-KOFF!-

UFF

HFF

HUH?!

TWO MONTHS...AND I'LL STORM KETHERES AGAIN...

I WON'T MAKE IT OUT ALIVE THIS TIME...

.....

JUST A TEST OF WILL!

NO MORE HIGH IDEALS.

HOW'S IT FEEL?
WELL?
I'M GOOD TO GO!

For those lamenting the paucity of Alita combat in Volume 3, we bring you two battle-oriented comic strips!